

Turkey to ensure Iraqi 'integrity'

ANKARA (R) — In its latest nod to Baghdad, Turkey said on Wednesday that the stricter control it has clamped on its southeastern border would help to ensure Iraq's territorial integrity. Measures took effect on Sept. 8 to restrict passage between Turkey and northern Iraq, which is controlled by Western-backed anti-Baghdad Kurds and is used as a staging area for cross-border attacks by Turkey's own Kurdish separatist guerrillas. The Foreign Ministry, explaining the changes, said on Wednesday that U.N. aid agencies and Operation Provide Comfort, in which Western air forces protect the Kurds from attack by Baghdad, would have free access. Turks, Iraqis and accredited foreign correspondents are exempt from the new restrictions but all others must seek permission to cross from Turkish authorities on a case-by-case basis, the ministry said. "In assessing requests for passage, we are naturally reviewing our own security considerations as well as the need for the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Atman told a press briefing. "This move has to be seen in relation to attempts to cozy up to Baghdad," commented a Western diplomat.

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Hilas honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday conferring the Jordanian Al Kawakib Medal on Ms. Laurence Hilas for her distinguished services over the past 30 years at the ministries of tourism and foreign affairs. Ms. Hilas, who retired this year, had for some time served as advisor at the Prime Ministry.

Dev-Sol demands leader's release

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Turkey's armed extremist group Dev-Sol on Wednesday demanded the immediate liberation of its leader from French custody, threatening French targets if their request was denied. "If the French government intends to collaborate with the Turkish torturers and executioners in attempting to sabotage our struggle, our fight will perhaps be transformed into a national and international class war," one of the organization's representatives said in Brussels. Dev-Sol leader, 41-year-old Dursun Karatas, was indicted Monday by France's top anti-terrorism magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere. He was arrested early Friday trying to cross the Italian-French border using a false Dutch passport. The leftist group said the French government had taken a "political stance" in arresting its leader.

Yemeni security forces foil hijack

SANA (AFP) — Yemeni security forces foiled a mid-air hijack attempt Wednesday, overpowering a man armed with a grenade on board an airliner of the national carrier Alyemen on a flight from Aden to Sanaa, witnessed said. Saad Ahmad Hassan, a 30-year-old Yemeni man, tried to enter the flight deck of the Boeing 737 with a grenade in his hand, but security forces grabbed him, seized the device and tied him up, passengers said after arriving in Sanaa. The plane, carrying 80 passengers and crew, landed without problems and the hijacker was arrested. A security official at Sanaa airport said Mr. Ahmad Hassan was being questioned about his motives.

Guatemalan threatened

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Guatemalan diplomat has been threatened after the Latin American country's decision to move its embassy to occupied Jerusalem, reports said Wednesday. The *Masir* daily said the diplomat in charge of the embassy was harassed by anonymous callers warning: "We will blow up your house." The paper said police suspected extremists were behind the threats and were investigating. No comment was available from the Guatemalan embassy in Tel Aviv. The ambassador, Stella de Garcigranados, was out of the country.

Kabul fighting leaves 33 dead

KABUL (AFP) — At least 33 people have died after three days of heavy fighting in southern and eastern suburbs of Kabul and clashes between two Shi'ite factions, witnesses and hospital sources said Wednesday. Rockets rained down on the city and hospitals reported at least 11 civilians dead and more than 50 wounded early Wednesday as clashes continued between two opposing Shi'ite factions in south Kabul around the ruins of Darulaman Palace. "I am sure that by the end of the day the casualty toll will be higher than 100," said a staff member of Kabul's Karte Se hospital. The factions identified in the fighting are the Hizbullah-e-Islam, which is allied with President Burhanuddin Rabbani, and the Hezb-e-Wahdat faction in alliance with ex-premier and Hezb-e-Islami faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Israel and PLO put peace back on track

OSLO (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Norway on Wednesday after putting aside their differences to speed up much-needed aid for Palestinian self-rule areas.

The two men signed a declaration on Tuesday night aimed at unblocking \$2.5 billion of aid for Palestinian self-rule territories.

"I think both parties are really trying to be reasonable and go ahead with our negotiations. We made an historic decision," a smiling Peres said early on Wednesday.

Norway's Foreign Minister Bjørn Tore Godal, who helped broker the deal, said of the document: "I think it performs a very solid basis for the work in the next weeks which will have to be done to secure the interests of the Palestinian people."

Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and donor countries — which include the United States, Japan and European member-states — plan to reconvene in Paris for a new conference on international aid in about two weeks' time.

The so-called "Oslo declaration" was signed during an intermission of a concert marking the first anniversary of the declaration of principles, the historic Israeli-PLO accord.

The Oslo declaration is aimed at defusing a dispute over Jerusalem that broke out a meeting in Paris last Friday, of states pledged to aid Palestinian self-rule.

The three-page document said both sides accepted a

request by Norway, as chair of the ad hoc liaison committee, "that they shall not bring before the donor community... those political issues that are of disagreement between them."

"They will deal with such issues between themselves, based on the declaration of principles and subsequent agreements," the document said.

The text avoided the thorny issue of Jerusalem in what was widely seen as yet another victory for Norwegian diplomacy.

Norway helped broker last year's peace accord and has pledged to continue hosting talks between Israel and the PLO on implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

"If we have some problems, we know a place which is called Oslo," Peres said. "I think the (PLO) chairman as well as we have become extremely sentimental about Oslo," he added, standing next to Mr. Arafat who seemed to fully agree.

Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Godal confirmed they had reached an agreement in front of a 6,000-strong crowd at the peace concert in central Oslo.

On stage, both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres paid tribute to Norway's late Foreign Minister Jørgen Holst, who helped broker the original peace accord.

"I can say to his spirit that be sure. We will continue walking in this line of peace," Mr. Arafat said, holding Mr. Peres' hand firmly as they talked about the necessity of achieving lasting peace in the Middle East.

Later on Wednesday, Mr.

Arafat urged Russian leader Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton to focus their attention on the Middle East at their forthcoming summit.

Mr. Arafat, on a stopover in Moscow, discussed Russia's role in Middle East peace moves during talks with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

It quoted him as saying he hoped the planned Sept. 26-29 summit in Washington would serve to reinforce the role of both powers as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace effort.

Mr. Arafat, speaking after talks with Mr. Ivanov, welcomed the efforts which Russia as co-sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace process had made, TASS said.

The PLO leader afterwards was to leave Moscow for Tashkent, the capital of the Central Asian state of Uzbekistan, for a one-day private visit, officials said.

Mr. Peres, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Godal confirmed they had reached an agreement in front of a 6,000-strong crowd at the peace concert in central Oslo.

The 15-point Oslo declaration announced overnight wiped the slate clean a year after the declaration of principles launched autonomy for Gaza and Jericho.

"We have the feeling that everything is starting off again in a very positive way," said a senior aide to Mr. Peres.

"Yasser Arafat appeared very moved, he spoke a few words in Hebrew, repeating Shalom over and over," the aide added.



EGYPTIAN AIR CHIEF: His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court on Wednesday Lieutenant General Ahmad Nasser, commander of the Egyptian air force.

Arab League hails Washington Declaration

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid praised the Israel-Jordan accord of July 25 on Wednesday and urged the Jewish state to recognise Palestinian rights in Jerusalem if it wants true peace.

Dr. Abdul Meguid made the statements to the opening of the 102nd meeting of foreign ministers from the Arab League's member states. The session began with the 21 members adopting a series of resolutions supporting the Palestinian struggle and recognising Jerusalem as capital of a world-behind Palestinian state. They also urged Israel to stop building settlements around the city.

On Tuesday, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signed an agreement separating the divisive issue of Jerusalem from the question of aid to autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho.

During its two-day meeting, the Arab League is also to discuss Kuwaiti prisoners

in Iraq, Iran's occupation of two islands claimed by the United Arab Emirates and Libya's battle with the West over the Lockerbie bombing.

Dr. Abdul Meguid also appealed for reconciliation between Arab states, saying it was time to put behind them the "bitterness and painful memories" of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 that sharply divided loyalties.

An initiative he launched in March 1993 to promote Arab reconciliation should "form the basis" of this process, the secretary general said, although the issue itself was not on the agenda.

The initiative called on all Arab countries not to interfere in the internal affairs of other states and to respect their sovereignty. But so far there have been few concrete

results.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammed Salem Bassanawa also backed reconciliation. "Holding ministerial sessions has become pure tradition. We meet, we go back to our capitals, as if we had not met at all," he protested.

"The time has come to adopt a (more efficient) mechanism to overcome inter-Arab differences."

But an Arab diplomat said it was unlikely the question would be raised since it needed a decision from the heads of state.

Fifteen ministers from the 22-member Arab League turned up for the meeting, while the other seven countries were represented by their permanent envoys to the Cairo-based organisation.

Egypt pulls off success with population forum

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government basked Wednesday in the success of the U.N. population conference which had come under fire from its own clergy as well as Muslim fundamentalists.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) ended on Tuesday with Islamic states like Iraq, Indonesia and Pakistan joining a 182-nation consensus on a 20-year plan to cut the world's booming birthrates.

These states won changes in the plan's wording they charged condoned abortion and undermined traditional family values, helping to tame the fierce domestic criticism which hit the conference when it opened on September 5.

Egypt supported the document without reservation but took the same line as other Muslim countries during the conference on abortion and the definition of family.

The changes in the action plan "are not everything we wanted, but they are of importance and value," said Maamoun Al Hodaily of the International Brotherhood.

"The document is no longer dangerous because of the efforts made, whether on the part of the Vatican, the Muslim countries, the media campaigns or (Pakistani Prime Minister) Benazir Bhutto's remarks," Mr. Hodaily told AFP.

The Brotherhood had issued a statement blasting the conference, saying it violated Muslim ethics.

And Muslim militants who have been waging a two-year war to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's secular government had also warned

delegates to stay away or risk their lives.

But 14,000 police deployed for the event prevented any attack.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Muss and Population Minister Maher Mahran were both all smiles at the close when delegation after delegation thanked the host country.

On Wednesday, the Islamic opposition paper Al Ahrar, previously one of the biggest critics, said the conference action plan now included some Islamic views.

"The conference adopted the action plan after... Islamic countries entered what is compatible with religions of the book, and their principles and ethics," wrote Al Ahrar.

There was no immediate post-conference comment from the government-appointed Al Azhar, the world's foremost Sunni Muslim authority, which had initially opposed parts of the action plan.

The consensus achieved at the nine-day Cairo conference was, however, accompanied by reservations on certain points which Islamic states said could still undermine their views.

But only the Vatican withheld full support for the final plan, and even it said parts of it were good.

Prior to the conference, Iran urged Islamic countries to attend to bolster the Muslim stand.

Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Syria and many other Muslim countries attended but Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq and Lebanon boycotted the conference.

Muslim countries were particularly successful in deleting the phrase "sexual rights" from the action plan.

Saguy: Israel and Syria closer to deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Syria are moving closer to a first agreement in their peace negotiations, Israel's chief of military intelligence said in an interview published Wednesday.

The FIS was banned in early 1992 after it made a strong showing in legislative elections and was poised to take control of the National Assembly, Algeria's lawmaking body.

But an army-backed committee took charge, banned the FIS and set up a figurehead president. The assassination of that President in June 1992 by a self-proclaimed fundamentalist soldier redoubled the government's campaign against the Muslim insurgency that spread after the FIS was banned.

FIS leaders not in jail went underground or fled overseas. Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, who had been arrested in 1991, were sentenced in 1992 to 12 years in prison for attacking state security.

Most opposition parties seemed to welcome the release which the Socialist Forces Front said was "positive." The Movement for an Islamic Society and the Arab-Islamic Rally said they were "satisfied" with the move and called on FIS to now renounce violence.

However, the former communist Ittihad movement told local radio it opposed the releases and again rejected "all dialogue with the fundamentalists" who were only interested in the "capitalization, pure and simple," of the state.

The party said in a separate statement sent to AFP that unknown attackers had killed a high school inspector and party member.

The Syrians, however, insist that at least one Jewish

settlement be dismantled in the first stage, according to the government official who confirmed a report by Israel Radio.

The Syrians also want withdrawal to be completed within two years, before the next Israeli elections scheduled for mid-1996, the report said.

Mr. Assad apparently is worried that Israel's hawkish opposition could regain power before the withdrawal is completed, the radio said.

The Syrians also said that only towards the end of the withdrawal process would they exchange of ambassadors, but not allow free trade and travel, the report said.

Gen. Saguy said there was not the slightest sign that Mr. Assad would settle for less than all the Golan, in part because Israel set a precedent when it returned the entire Sinai Peninsula under its 1979 treaty with Egypt.

Gen. Saguy said Mr. Assad still had not given the green light for an Israeli-Syrian summit.

Asked why Israeli-Syrian negotiations were moving forward after months of deadlock, Gen. Saguy said Israel's looming 1996 elections and the progress in Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians and Jordan apparently convinced Mr. Assad it was time to forge ahead.

A耶路撒冷 survey published Wednesday indicated that Israelis are divided on giving back the Golan.

Forty-eight per cent opposed local troop withdrawal, 20 per cent said they favoured a partial pullback and 25 per cent said they were ready to give back all of the Golan for peace with Syria.

Queen stresses central role of tourism in promoting world understanding

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, Honorary Chairperson of the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism's Second Global Conference: Building a Sustainable World Through Tourism, Tuesday spoke at the conference's opening ceremony in Montreal, stressing the importance of developing travel and tourism to enhance international peace and understanding, promote tourism that is sensitive to the environment and utilise its economic benefits for sustainable human development, according to a Royal Court statement Wednesday.

The Sept. 12-16 conference focuses on concrete examples from throughout the world demonstrating the success of travel and tourism in contributing to a peaceful and sustainable world, and seeks to disseminate the experiences as model programmes to the participants, the statement said.

Building on the first Global Conference: Tourism — A Vital Force for Peace, which was held in Vancouver in 1988, the conference aims to develop solid proposals to launch travel and tourism as a "global peace industry" through broad international participation and exchange, said the statement.

Tourism, the world's largest service industry currently, is expected to become the world's largest industry by the year 2000. 600 million people travelled in 1993 throughout the world, representing one-tenth of the world population and generating \$340 billion in tourism income.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan attended the conference, in which over

1,500 participants from 60 countries were present, representing all sectors of the travel and tourism industry and related sectors including parks, culture, heritage education and the environment.

Many distinguished writers, educators, politicians and activists were also present, among whom Noel Brown, the director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered the keynote address.

According to the statement, Jordan is participating in all the activities throughout the conference, which include an exhibit and various workshops covering tourism development, culture and heritage, ecotourism, communication and education among other topics.

Queen Noor said the statement, emphasised the central role of tourism in promoting peace and international understanding saying, "there is a growing demand among tourists for authentic interaction and cultural exchange. Tour packages that allow visitors to experience the creativity and vitality of their host country and its citizens will have a far more sustainable and lasting impact on our goals of peace and progress than itineraries limited only to superficial contact with a country and its people."

"In the Middle East," the Queen said, "in the long struggle towards Arab-Israeli peace, we have seen clear evidence of the critical relationships between peace, tourism and development. It is clear that regional peace and stability are requisites for successful tourism, which in turn promotes stability through development progress."

The queen added that



"for tourism to play its full role as an agent of sustained development for the well-being of present and future generations, we must ensure that the economic gains of tourism are shared fairly by all concerned — in particular by the local communities who are the custodians of the environment, the guardians of precious historic sites which are mankind's common cultural heritage, and the hosts to foreign visitors."

Queen Noor stressed the necessity for environmentally responsible tourism and for collaboration to protect and preserve sites of antiquity and natural beauty.

She added, "in Jordan, we are implementing a series of protective measures to ensure that our

world renowned ancient Nabataean site of Petra, in particular, is not irreparably damaged by increasing damage from tourist flows, and that the local community is involved in preservation and development planning that will also guarantee improved quality of life. We recognise that of equal importance is our responsibility to ensure a more equitable distribution of employment and tourism income and other benefits among all Jordanians."

Queen Noor later visited Montreal City Hall where she discussed with Mayor Jean Dore areas of cooperation between Montreal and Jordanian cities, and the exchange of expertise in various fields, including the environment, tourism, archaeology and urban development.

UNRWA announces senior post changes

AMMAN (J.T.) — Senior staff changes at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) slated to take effect today include the return of Ele Saaf, a former agency director for Jordan and Lebanon, as UNRWA Director for Jordan, and the transfer of incumbent director Dennis Brown to the post of coordinator of UNRWA Headquarters in Amman.

Mr. Saaf (54), a Dutch national, has been with

UNRWA since 1978 and has served as personnel director in Vienna and coordinator of the agency's headquarters in Amman, in addition to the above mentioned posts in Lebanon and Syria. Mr. Saaf holds a masters in social sciences. He is married and has two children.

Mr. Saaf was welcomed Wednesday by Minister of State Mohammad Thweib who expressed hope for further close cooperation

between Jordan and UNRWA in providing educational, health and social services to the Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Affairs Department Director Assem Ghosheh has flown to Vienna for a meeting Thursday of the agency's advisory council.

The meeting, which is to be chaired by Jordan, is expected to discuss UNRWA's projects in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas in the com-

ing era of peace among other topics concerning the agency's services in its fields of operations in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the West Bank and Gaza.

According to a department source, the advisory council will review a draft report by the agency's Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen, which if endorsed, would be submitted by Mr. Turkmen to the U.N. General Assembly in New York by the end of September.

Environmental workshop participants call for increased government, NGO involvement

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants at the "Family and Environment" workshop, held this week by the Centennial Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), called on both the gov-

ernmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to get more involved and to increase their efforts in providing a safe and clean environment.

The participants also stressed that Her Royal Highness Princess Basma had called for at the opening ceremony, which includes forming a mechanism of continuous cooperation between the

public and government sectors to form a future plan of action.

Moreover, the document called for NGO environmental experts to study the draft environmental law suggested by the government and prepare notes and recommendations to be presented to the Parliament.

They also called for studying possibilities of conducting

environmental projects similar to the successful projects in rural areas, and called for the GUVS to provide the necessary funds.

Furthermore, the paper also called for increasing women's participation in environmental and development projects and for women to "make their own decisions since they are in direct contact with family members."

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- ★ Chinese film entitled "Love By Chance" (with subtitles in English) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "The Spirit of St. Louis" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Spanish film entitled "El Balcon Abierto" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

PLAY

- ★ Children's play in Arabic entitled "The Festival" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ "The Golden Crown Exhibition" of Jordanian national products at the Amman Auto Exhibition, Airport Road.
- ★ Exhibition of handicrafts at Haya Cultural Centre (Tel. 604600).
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'd Arty Gallery (10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Walid Karizdi at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Yousef Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'ib, Tala Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space I" by Samia Zarou at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251-2).

New clerical training venture aims to meet 'urgent' need

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A "state of the art" clerical training venture gets off the ground Saturday and judging from the all-out effort of its founders, it looks like they have left no stone unturned, including environment adjustments for wheelchair-bound students.

The Amman Business Institute (ABI) is the brainchild of Sherif Sukhtian and Arwa Dajani who commissioned a private market research firm in Amman to study the feasibility of their proposed venture.

The response, say the founders, was an overwhelming cry from the business community as well as office workers for a sophisticated, thorough training programme that would turn out professional bilingual receptionists, secretaries and administrative assistants.

Clerical staff make up a huge percentage of Jordan's workforce in all sectors and we suspected, and the study proved, that there is an urgent need for skilled office workers," Mrs. Sukhtian told the Jor-

dan Times. The lack of qualified administrative and clerical staff prevents these sectors from being as productive as they have the potential to be, she added.

According to Mrs. Sukhtian the training ingredients required here include computer skills (or information technology), English language, and office skills.

"Although such training courses are available, they are not integrated into a comprehensive package that would produce a well-rounded professional," Mrs. Sukhtian said.

According to Mrs. Dajani, the ABI will operate its three levels of secretarial training (junior, private and executive/office manager) based on British as well as the institute's own qualifications. Each level requires a nine-month basic training period which, when successfully completed, leads to an international recognised British certificate, she said.

Mrs. Dajani pointed out that providing such certification here in Jordan saves potential students from having to go abroad for the same qualifications.

Highlighting what the institute sees as its "different

Crime rate drops, says Udwan

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Crime is on the decrease and citizens should have trust and confidence in their national security system, Chief of Police Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Udwan said Wednesday during a lecture held by Rotary Club in Amman.

"There are few crimes you hear about, but crime will never stop in any society, and our country has the least number of crimes compared to other societies in the world" Lt. Gen. Udwan said addressing club members at the Inter Continental Hotel.

He said that the security apparatus was able to minimise the number of crimes committed this year and "we have statistics to prove it."

The chief of police denied that most crimes in Jordan were committed because of unemployment, or by foreign workers and refugees from the Gulf states.

"Not every poor person is a criminal and not every rich person is without fault. I assure you that only 10 per cent of the crimes are committed because of unemployment," Lt. Gen. Udwan, who has been chief of police since April 1993, said.

Jordan is still far off from

dangers of organised crime that Western societies suffer, and "we are living in a safe community and most military and security foreign observers who visit the country support my claims."

"I challenge anyone to live in as safe and stabilised a community as ours, and the proof is that now we see women driving late at night safely, which means that they feel secure," he said.

He said that responsibilities fall first on the families because they have a duty in raising their children to be law abiding.

"We need to concentrate on teaching our youngsters on ways to stay away from evils such as drugs and drinking, thus we can have more control over our community," said the Lt. Gen., a 26-year veteran of the police force.

He explained that another issue which concerns security in the Kingdom is the problem of some students returning from abroad who have picked up deviant habits which add to the problems of our society, "especially drug abuse."

"Drugs are a serious problem, and we have to join hands and teach our children to stay away from any person with suspicious behaviour."

According to a report released recently by the PSD, last year there were 446 festive firing incidents that claimed 23 lives and injured 280 people.

"We have experienced tragic incidents where the groom or the bride is killed because of such irresponsible practices," he said.

Lt. Udwan admitted that there are negative aspects in the police department.

"Like every police apparatus in the world, we have negative aspects, but it represents less than one per cent, which is nothing," he said, adding "I hope you believe in this system."

Lt. Gen. Udwan said the latest killing of five people during a tribal feud, including an innocent woman, was regrettable. "People should eliminate hatred and revenge from their hearts," he said.

The incident involved an exchange of gunfire between two families during a wedding procession.

"This incident and festive firing of live ammunition during weddings should be a sign of alarm to our society, and we need to become more sensitive about this issue, take responsibility by encouraging those who practice festive firings against this dangerous act."

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Australia promises cooperation in establishing peace — visiting envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Australian Senator and Minister of Immigration and Education Nickolas Bolukas met in Amman Wednesday with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and said later that his country supports the Washington Declaration as an important step on the way towards a comprehensive peace in the region.

Referring to Australian-Jordanian relations, Mr. Bolukas said that there is a large Jordanian community living in Australia and contributing towards enhancing bilateral ties adding that trade rela-

tions between both countries were excellent, and the volume of exchange trade was on the increase.

He said that Australia was continuing to extend financial aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in a bid to lay the infrastructure for projects in the self-rule areas of Pales-

tine, adding that his country will continue to provide help to solve the refugee problem.

Mr. Majali and Mr. Bolukas reviewed bilateral relations and developments in the peace process.

Mr. Bolukas, who is currently on a tour of the Middle East to visit Egypt, Israel and the Gaza Strip.

try urging them to make contacts with the Omani authorities in order to facilitate their exports.

He said he would soon go to Oman to finalise arrangements for the implementation of the agreement and ensure the flow of produce to the sultanate.

According to Dr. Lawzi, the AMO has distributed copies of the memorandum to the farmers federation and the exporters of fruits and vegetables as well as the Amman chambers of trade and industry.

Under the terms of the memorandum, he said, the Omani government has pledged to ensure visas for Jordanian merchants and facilities for Jordanian refrigerated trucks.

Dr. Lawzi said Omani markets annually absorb agricultural products worth \$115 million and therefore the door is wide open for Jordanian exporters to conduct business in the Omani market according to the required specifications.

Under the terms of the memorandum, he said, the Omani government has pledged to ensure visas for Jordanian merchants and facilities for Jordanian refrigerated trucks.

Dr. Lawzi said that the AMO and the Omani Marketing Corporation have been discussing the establishment of a joint company.

According to Dr. Lawzi, the AMO has distributed copies of the memorandum to the farmers federation and the exporters of fruits and vegetables as well as the Amman chambers of trade and industry.

When dealing with clients, co-workers, managers and subordinates; problem-solving; telephone techniques; and hygiene and grooming.

Combined into the programme of developing various office skills are lessons and workshops on interpersonal skills. These include training in recognising and developing a professional business attitude.

The training staff are all college graduates who have undergone weeks of preparation involving an integrated teaching method

whereby these trainers will work in groups.

And in capping the ABI founders' recipe for a pleasant, energetic and professional learning environment, the institute has been declared a non-smoking centre.

Classes begin Saturday, and the staff of ABI say they are ready to go.



Amman Business Institute trainees Wednesday work together to prepare for class openings (photo by Rana Husseini)

Cuba boat people exodus ends; beaches near Havana empty

HAVANA (R) — A month-long exodus from Cuba where some 30,000 people left the Communist-ruled island in flimsy rafts appeared to have over as beaches near Havana emptied of boat people and their home-made vessels.

Cuba, fulfilling its side of a deal struck last week with the United States, said force would be used if necessary from mid-day (1600 GMT) Tuesday to stop raft departure.

Well before then, a string of beaches east of the capital such as Cojimar, Guanabo and Las Brisas that have been focal points for departures were clear of rafts and rafters.

Around dawn, Interior部 workers with a crane

removed raft material from a stretch of beach at Guanabo.

One group of rafters paddled slowly back to the shore after encountering a U.S. Coast Guard vessel at sea and deciding it was not worth making the trip to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, where Cuban boat people picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard are being taken.

Only 33 people were picked up by the Coast Guard Tuesday, compared to 283 intercepted Monday.

Along the coast at Las Brisas, two young Coast Guard officers stood watch during the morning among the rock pools as a solitary couple sunbathed on the sand behind.

The officers said the last of

the rafters had left late Monday.

At Cojimar, a rocky stretch of beach that turned into virtually an unofficial port after President Fidel Castro relaxed the rules on rafter departures on Aug. 12, there was nobody on the beach at all.

A police car slowly patrolled the road behind a shoreline that just days ago was populated by wary young men and their inner-tube, oil drum and wood vessels.

Police also guarded some roads into Cojimar, 10 miles (15 km) east of Havana to ensure compliance with an order issued at the weekend banning transport of rafts or raft material down to the coast ahead of Tuesday's

clamp-down.

Cuba called a halt to the exodus after reaching an immigration accord last Friday with the United States under which Washington has agreed to increase to a minimum of 20,000 the number of visas it grants each year to Cubans.

There may still be some Cubans who take to the sea in rafts as they did previously, in clandestine fashion, although last week's deal confirms that if they are picked by the U.S. Coast Guard, they will not be admitted to the United States.

The end to mass departures — the exodus was the biggest from Cuba since the 1980 Mariel boatlift — closed a chapter on a tense period in Cuba that began two months ago with the sinking of a stolen tugboat used by would-be emigrants to the United States.

Thirty-two people drowned. Cuba insisted that the sinking of the tugboat by pursuing vessels was an accident, but President Bill Clinton called the July 13 incident an example of Cuban "brutality."

A spate of further hijackings of state-owned vessels toward Florida in late July and early August triggered unprecedented street clashes in Havana on Aug. 5.

Mr. Castro, blaming the clashes on the United States and saying he was fed up with trying to "guard" the U.S. coastline for it, ordered more flexibility shown towards rafters on Aug. 12.



Policemen in riot gear stand next to an armoured vehicle at the scene of riots at the Crumlin Road Courthouse in Belfast. Violence erupted between rival Catholic and Protestant groups at the courthouse where a Catholic suspect was standing trial for the attempted murder of a Protestant extremist. (AP photo)

Belfast Protestants take to streets

BELFAST (R) — Protestant gangs angered by Dublin's acceptance of an IRA ceasefire and upset by alleged police harassment took to the streets of Belfast overnight, hurling cars and throwing petrol bombs.

A police spokesman said Wednesday the disturbances, widespread across Protestant areas, were contained within a few hours.

There were a number of incidents — vehicles were set on fire, one petrol bomb thrown, "he said.

Another spokesman said a shot was fired at police, hitting a house, and a loaded handgun was later found abandoned. He said no injuries were reported but three people were arrested.

Northern Ireland's Protestant majority has become increasingly uneasy about its future since an IRA ceasefire two weeks ago.

Local Ulster Unionist Party councillor Chris McGimpsey said tensions between some residents and police were to blame.

"I think there is a fear that, with the ceasefire, police will be pulled more and more from (Republican) areas and the fear is... they will be deployed to loyalist areas," he told British Broadcasting Corporation Radio.

Protestant activists, called loyalists for their desire to remain part of Britain, are

starkly opposed to a unified Ireland, the goal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) which says it has ended its 25-year guerrilla war against Britain.

The Protestants are also angry about the warm reception Ireland has given to the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein since the ceasefire announcement. The once-shunned Sinn Fein head Gerry Adams went to Dublin within days and met Mr. Reynolds — and on Tuesday Irish officials met Sinn Fein delegates again.

In Dublin, Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds denied that his government had disregarded unionists by meeting with the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein. "The doors are open to everybody," he told reporters. "There is no special treatment for Sinn Fein, or anybody else."

Mr. Reynolds has written to Protestant Unionist parties to invite them to join his forum for peace and reconciliation, which Sinn Fein and Irish parties will attend. The loyalists rejected earlier invitations.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring Wednesday expressed concern about the Protestant violence and appealed to Protestant extremists to join the IRA ceasefire.

But he also defended the talks with Sinn Fein. "What

you saw yesterday was part of the necessary consultations to establish the forum as soon as possible," he said.

British ex-Chancellor (Finance Minister) Norman Lamont accused Prime Minister John Major of badly handling Protestant unhappiness, worsening instead of calming their fears.

"The problem has been compounded by the British government's portrayal of itself as a disinterested, honest broker in the peace process. This, of course, is impossible," he wrote in the U.S. Wall Street Journal.

"No government can be indifferent as to whether a part of its country switches allegiance," added Mr. Lamont, whom Mr. Major sacked last year after Hitler delegates to match the Getty Trust's bid. Multi-millionaire John Paul Getty II offered to donate \$1 million (\$1.55 million). But he almost withdrew the offer when Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, accused him of being motivated by ill-will towards his father, J. Paul Getty, whose fortune supports the Getty Museum.

Finally, Dutch-born art collector Hans Heinrich Thysen-Bornemisza stepped in with the final £800,000 (\$1.25 million) needed to keep it in Britain.

Mr. Lamont also bluntly hinted the U.S. administration

was to interfere unnecessarily in Northern Ireland affairs.

The United States has seen itself as a broker, irritating the British government by giving Mr. Adams one visa and bunting he could easily get another.

Earlier Tuesday about 80 Protestant men and women confronted police outside a Belfast courthouse where a Catholic man was standing trial for the attempted murder of an alleged Protestant extremist leader.

Judge supports move to keep sculpture

LONDON (R) — A judge threw out an attempt to overturn a British government decision to stop the export of The Three Graces sculpture to California's Getty Museum. The judge refused to allow a judicial review of the government decision, a month which allowed British museums a final chance to match a bid from the Malibu-based museum. He said the government had not acted unfairly. The California-based J. Paul Getty Trust, which agreed to buy the Three Graces for its £1.8 million museum in 1989, wanted the court in Leeds, northern England, to overturn the government decision. Counsel for the Getty Trust said later it planned to appeal against the decision within the next week. Art lovers fought for five years to keep the 19th century marble sculpture by Italian Antonio Canova in British hands. The Getty Trust agreed to buy the sculpture for £7.6 million (£11.8 million) in 1989, but government ministers repeatedly delayed the final go-ahead for its export to allow British museums time to raise the money. London's Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Galleries of Scotland raised £5.8 million (\$9.04 million) in an appeal. In August the government allowed a further three months for British interests to match the Getty Trust's bid. Multi-millionaire John Paul Getty II offered to donate £1 million (\$1.55 million). But he almost withdrew the offer when Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, accused him of being motivated by ill-will towards his father, J. Paul Getty, whose fortune supports the Getty Museum.

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SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Sculptures of genitalia. A painting of an angel having sexual intercourse on an altar. Pop star Madonna's latest book? Try the latest exhibit at an art gallery run by Roman Catholic nuns. The nuns and the Archdiocese of San Antonio have been besieged by calls from irate Texans. The archbishop has declared himself "highly offended, insulted and hurt at this art." And on Tuesday, one day after the exhibit opened, it was shut down until further notice for review by the religious order that operates the gallery. "We apologize for any confusion or hurt that the community has felt," said Edna Perez-Vega, spokeswoman for the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, an order of about 500 nuns throughout the United States, Mexico and Peru. The exhibit, featuring a painting of an angel having sexual intercourse on an altar, Pop star Madonna's latest book? Try the latest exhibit at an art gallery run by Roman Catholic nuns. 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A view of the newly opened Bailey Bridge which recently was built by British and Spanish engineers in three weeks to replace the old Tito Bridge below (AFP photo)

Advance team of observers to deploy in Serbia

GENEVA (AFP) — International observers will begin deploying this week on the Yugoslav-Bosnian border to ensure Serbia's compliance with the global blockade against renegade Serbs in Bosnia, international mediator Lord Owen announced Wednesday.

An initial team of Nordic observers tasked with monitoring sanctions will head for Serbia Thursday followed by a second contingent Friday, he said at a press conference.

Serbia agreed to the presence of unarmed monitors on its borders in hopes of gaining an end to UN-mandated sanctions which have crippled its economy for the past 28 months.

Official Serbian media reported Wednesday that an easing of the economic embargo was imminent since President Slobodan Milosevic had met international demands that he end Belgrade's support for Bosnia's separatist Serbs.

Serbia announced the blockade after the Bosnian Serbs rejected the latest plan to end the two-and-a-half year Bosnian conflict.

But there was no announcement yet from the United Nations or Western capitals about the impact of Serbian compliance.

Lord Owen said the observers "will be charged with checking that only humanitarian aid goes across the border into Bosnia-Herzegovina through the territory of Serbia and Montenegro" — the two components of rump Yugoslavia.

"The aim is to build up by the weekend a sufficient team to start to be deployed either in cases where the humanitarian aid is packed and distributed or at the border points

and to work alongside customs officers or the Yugoslav Red Cross," he said.

"We can't prejudge what will be necessary beyond that," he added.

The head of the 270-member observer group, Swedish General Bo Pelin, was to arrive in Belgrade Wednesday to discuss the deployment, diplomats said.

The Serbian government had not confirmed his visit, however.

A total of 135 members of the group, drivers and translators, is to be supplied by Belgrade, Lord Owen said.

Lord Owen said that Serbia's agreement to allow deployment of the monitors should result in clear international moves in favour of Belgrade.

"I have always believed that it was a tremendous error that we didn't follow up really effectively President Milosevic's support for the Vance-Owen peace plan," he said, referring to an earlier peace initiative by him and U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance.

"That has been a lesson that has been learned and we were determined not to let that opportunity go for a second time," he said.

Lord Owen said he hoped Serbian isolation could end since "throughout this dispute there has been a widespread feeling, which is a sort of paranoia, a Serb-against-the-world feeling, which has been stocked up by some people who have an interest in it."

"I am very pleased that we have broken this myth that the world is always totally against the Serbs," he said.

Meanwhile Bosnian Serb and government forces con-

tinued to clash near vital supply routes, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Bosnian Serb ground forces fought the mainly-Muslim Bosnian army Tuesday in the Konjic area, 45 kilometres (28-miles) southwest of Sarajevo in clashes Croat military officials here said aimed to test defensive lines.

Meanwhile, Bosnian army and Bosnian Croat troops traded artillery fire with Serb forces around Serb-held Brcko in northern Bosnia, which guards the strategic Posavina Corridor linking Serb-held areas in east and west Bosnia.

The exchanges marked the first time in two months that Bosnian Croats in the Orasje pocket north of Brcko have shelled the Serbs.

U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Eric Chaperon reported a 90-shell exchange between the two sides, the Bosnian army targeting Brcko, the Serbs government-held Brka, eight kilometres (five miles) away on the Posavina corridor's southern flank.

Orasje Croats later fired at least seven rockets at Brcko, sparking Serb retaliation.

Maj. Chaperon reported heavy shelling for the second straight day in the Konjic area, with 50 82mm mortar rounds landing including five direct hits on the town.

The Bosnian army appeared to have gained ground following Tuesday's fierce infantry battles, sparked by Serb probing attacks along the front.

U.S. diplomatic sources have hinted that Washington is scrambling to stitch together a compromise with its contact group allies trading a lifting of the U.N. Security Council arms embargo against Serbia.

The injured — four Americans, one Briton, a Japanese and an Austrian according to police — were hospitalised at nearby Canterbury.

Several of the injured were in a serious condition with multiple fractures of their spines and legs, but all were expected to survive, doctors said.

It was the second accident in three weeks involving a Channel ferry here.

On Aug. 25, a Sally Lines vessel, the Sally Star, caught fire at Ramsgate. The blaze, in the engine-room, raged for eight hours but there were no casualties.

Thirteen people, the last passengers to board the Belgian ferry Prins Filip, were crossing the gangway shortly before 1:00 a.m. when it collapsed, plunging most of them onto a floating pontoon some 10 metres below.

The ferry captain told Belgian maritime officials the gangway had become detached from the wall on the quay side. It had been earlier thought a cable linking it to the ship had snapped.

About 40 firemen rushed to the scene with heavy lifting gear to try to free injured people from the debris.

After the accident, the ship and its 400 passengers remained in port so investigators could question eyewitnesses.

The 30-metre long gangway, made by the Swedish company FEAB, was the highest being used in Britain and was recently inspected by an insurance expert from Lloyd's. It was supposed to be capable of supporting 100 people at a time.

The passenger walkway was actually put in place in March and was subject to examination by Lloyd's and received a Lloyd's certificate of safety, Port Director Reg Cooper said.

"Since then, it has been regularly inspected and maintained. It still is only six months old. We have another one here which is six years old and has never given any problems," he added.

Mr. Sharif gave no date for the next phase of the campaign but sources in his party, claiming that the government could fall by December, said he would announce his future programme within days.

During his whistle-stop rail campaign, Mr. Sharif told large crowds en route that the political struggle launched by his Pakistan Muslim League

target, sitting on a supply route lifeline between the Adriatic coast, Sarajevo and Tuzla in the north.

It is the only all-weather route along which food, fuel and eventually heavy weapons can move through government-held territory in central and northern Bosnia.

Strategists at UNPROFOR and in the Croat-Muslim federation agree capture of Konjic would enable the Serbs to strangle Sarajevo without breaching the heavy weapons exclusion zone around the capital and risking NATO airstrikes.

The Serb's next target would be to isolate the northern city of Tuzla, driving north from the Olovo-Brugle region and south from the Doboj finger to sever federation-controlled territory into two at its narrowest point, a Croat source told AFP.

Federation forces meanwhile could cut Serb-held territories in two by snapping shut the Posavina Corridor at Brcko.

To hold onto the area the U.S.-backed Croat-Muslim federation would need heavy weapons which only a lifting of the arms embargo can bring.

U.S. President Bill Clinton — cornered by a massive vote in Congress — has vowed to act unilaterally after Nov. 1 if the Serbs continue to reject the peace plan on the table after a mid-October deadline.

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U.S. ships leave for Haiti waters

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

A second U.S. aircraft carrier with an invasion force aboard was heading for Haiti Wednesday as President Bill Clinton tried to drum up support for American intervention from a dubious public.

Mr. Clinton plans to make a speech on Haiti Thursday night on television in hopes of persuading the public that it is worth risking American lives to remove Haiti's military leaders.

Defense Secretary William Perry planned to board the USS Eisenhower and the amphibious command ship the USS Mt. Whitney in Norfolk, Virginia, Wednesday to talk to officers who would command any invasion.

The Eisenbauer, which has been loading some 2,000 troops, helicopters and equipment and will be used as a helicopter platform, will join the carrier USS America that sailed from Norfolk Tuesday with elite Special Forces troops and a contingent from the elite 82nd Airborne Division.

There are already more than a dozen warships, including a helicopter assault ship and some 1,800 Marines, patrolling the waters near Haiti to enforce the international trade embargo and to be in place for an invasion.

While the U.S. military is ready, the American public is not. Both Republicans and Democrats are telling Mr. Clinton that he had better make a case that U.S. interests are at stake before sending in the troops.

An ABC News poll released Monday showed 73 per cent of Americans oppose an invasion and a similar poll by Prodigy com-

puter network found that only about one-in-five of its subscribers, who number in the millions, would support military intervention.

To support the administration's case, the State Department released a new report on human rights abuses under the Haitian military regime, saying its "rule of terror" compared to the regime of ex-dictator Papa Doc Duvalier.

The United States kept its hands off Haiti while he was in power.

Using voodoo and his Ton-Ton Macoute palace guard, Mr. Duvalier ruled Haiti with an iron hand from 1957 until he died in 1971. He was succeeded by his son, Jean-Claude, known as "Baby Doc," who was pushed into exile by the military in 1986.

"Haiti is in the grip of repression and terror," said Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck in releasing the report on human rights abuses committed by the military regime that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

"It is marked by a level of violence comparable to what existed during the notorious regime of Papa Doc Duvalier," he told reporters.

Mr. Clinton is following the example of ex-President George Bush, who mounted a publicity campaign about Iraq's human rights abuses after Kuwait was invaded before engaging U.S. troops in the 1991 Gulf War.

Democratic House speaker Thomas Foley said Tuesday the House of Representatives might vote next week on whether Mr. Clinton should order U.S. troops into Haiti.

Lawmakers indicated that the invasion was still not inevitable. "There's a lot going on right now," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

House minority leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., said Haiti's three top military leaders must go and there's still considerable amount of pressure being brought to bear to bring that about short of baving to follow through with military action."

Lawmakers from both parties Tuesday urged the president to seek congressional approval before committing any troops to Haiti.

Presidents have consistently questioned the constitutionality of the 1973 War Powers Act that gives Congress the authority to end an overseas military operation. President George Bush in 1991 reluctantly asked Congress to endorse the offensive against Iraq in the Gulf war, but he did not seek congressional approval before invading Panama, nor did President Ronald Reagan when he sent troops to Grenada.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers cited those cases in arguing that no prior approval was needed, and said a military invasion of Haiti would be "minor compared to what was needed in Desert Storm."

Congressional opponents of invasion said the administration had failed to show that Haiti poses a national security threat that must be met by military force. Senate minority leader Bob Dole scoffed at administration arguments that U.S. credibility is at stake in driving Haiti's military leaders from power.

Clashes resume in Burundi capital

BUJUMBURA (R) — Clashes between troops and gunmen in the Burundi capital resumed for a second straight day Wednesday and residents started leaving under military supervision.

Witnesses said shooting with automatic weapons in the northern suburb of Kamenge, which broke out Monday night and continued until midnight (2200 GMT) Tuesday, resumed at dawn Wednesday.

Troop reinforcements were seen moving towards Kamenge and armoured vehicles ringed the suburb, a noted of Hutu extremists opposed to the army dominated by Burundi's Tutsi minority.

The witnesses said civilian

residents were leaving Kamenge under army supervision but there were no new casualty reports available. They said a number of houses had been set ablaze.

Officials said two soldiers were killed and four wounded on Tuesday in clashes in Kamenge and the nearby suburb of Kinama.

Burundi has the same ethnic makeup as neighbouring Rwanda, where an estimated one million people, mostly minority Tutsi, died in tribal massacres since April blamed largely on Hutus.

The Rwanda bloodbath was ignited by a rocket attack which killed the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, as the plane carrying

Chechen government, rebels clash again

MOGADISHU (R) — Government forces in Chechnya, a breakaway region of south Russia, have clashed with rebel gunmen for the second time this month, Chechen Interior Minister Abubakar Satayev said Wednesday.

He denied a report from the Russian Interfax News Agency that six militiamen had been captured by the rebels.

Mr. Satayev blamed the attack on the band of Ruslan Labazanov, a former ally of

Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Mr. Labazanov suffered a setback on Sept. 5 when Mr. Dudayev's forces captured his stronghold, the town of Argun.

Russia refuses to recognise Mr. Dudayev's 1991 declaration of independence and supports a different rebel group, headed by Umar Avtukhanov.

Officials from the service were not immediately available for comment on the reports, but Peter Todorov, a director of safety at the Bulgarian Atomic Energy Committee, said the committee had been informed of the haul.

He said the material, which included Thulium-204, probably came from within Bulgaria.

"In Bulgaria small quantities of radioactive material have been produced mainly for medical usage. Most probably the material was

stolen from Bulgarian industrial enterprises."

"We cannot say how much there is before specialised studies are performed," said Mr. Todorov.

Mr. Todorov said that last year the committee knew of 75 unregistered enterprises where radioactive sources were in use.

"We have found some of them... in many of them it appears that without our knowledge and permission the material has been handled over for disposal or transferred to another place. Sometimes we know the new places, sometimes we do not."

Mr. Todorov was surprised by the ignorance of the smugglers, who he said had probably been contaminated by the material.

Bones, teeth found in Sri Lanka mass grave

COLOMBO (R) — Workers dug up a mass gravesite in southern Sri Lanka Wednesday, finding the bones, hair and teeth of possible victims of a military crackdown on left-wing rebels five years ago, witnesses said.

The site was discovered after a tip to the People's Alliance (PA), which was in opposition at the time but took power after defeating the United National Party in last month's parliamentary elections.

The gravesite, on a mountain side at Suriyakanda 165 kilometres south of Colombo, was initially discovered in January when the body parts of 26 people were unearthed.

The remains are believed

to be of people killed during a military crackdown in 1989-90, when thousands were executed by government death squads.

The site was discovered after a tip to the People's Alliance (PA), which was in opposition at the time but took power after defeating the United National Party in last month's parliamentary elections.

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Where to go from Cairo

NOW THAT the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is over, it remains to be seen what the international community intends to do with its final declaration and plan of action. To begin with, the results of the international meeting were adopted at the 11th hour by consensus with around 20 countries still voicing concern and reservations about many of the controversial elements of the plan of action, especially those that centred on abortion, sex education, use of contraceptives and sexual relations outside marriage. Above all, all references to the acceptability of homosexual relations drew strong objections from a multitude of participating states, especially those which belong to the Muslim and Roman Catholic worlds.

Nonetheless, the first formal hurdle that the ICPD declaration has to clear would be its adoption by the United Nations General Assembly when it convenes later this month. This much can be expected to be attained since the 180 countries that attended the Cairo forum will certainly honour their support of the Cairo programme of action when it is presented to the General Assembly.

Where the problem still lies is in the fact that the Cairo conference's decisions are mere recommendations and guidelines for the international community. There is no legal obligation on the part of the consenting governments to adhere to the letter and spirit of the Cairo formula for curbing population explosions worldwide, improving the status and power of women and bridging the economic gap between the haves and have-nots of world nations.

Yet the impact of the resolutions of Cairo's international gathering on population and development cannot but be felt throughout other dimensions of international actions pertaining to women's rights, economic progress and protection of environment. With the Vatican softening its opposition to the final Cairo document after succeeding in watering down its language on abortion and sexual practices, and with the Muslim and Roman Catholic countries joining the consensus, albeit reluctantly, the stage is now set for further elaboration of the outcome of the conference in legally-binding treaties. Henceforth population control policies can be expected to be formulated in the context of economic development, environmental protection and the empowerment of women.

We certainly expect the Jordanian delegation, which represented Jordan at the Cairo conference, to brief the country on the achievements and shortcomings of the conference. Above all we need to assess the impact of the final decisions of the conference on Jordanian laws and practices even though the leader of the Jordanian team registered the Kingdom's reservations about certain sex-related issues. To be sure, the reservations of several Muslim and Catholic nations cannot be expected to have international impact in the face of international consensus. Still we in Jordan need to take stock of what transpired at Cairo and digest its results.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ONE YEAR after the signing of the Oslo deal, the Palestinian people feel their hopes frustrated and are in no mood for holding festivities or rejoicing at the first anniversary, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The Palestinians are even not in the mood for watching festivities on the occasion presented on television, as they do not believe that the Oslo deal has helped to achieve their national aspirations, according to Ibrahim Al Absi. What most Palestinians believe is that the Oslo deal was forced on them because of the rapid changes at the regional and international fronts in the wake of the Gulf crisis, and has not helped in any way to restore Palestinian national rights. Therefore, said the writer, the Palestinians can by no means be in the mood for celebrating the first anniversary which falls at a time when the Palestinians continue to face atrocities and repression. The writer demanded that the Palestine National Authority (PNA) and the Palestinian leadership take stock of the events and the situation and re-examine their position carefully. The Palestinians, said the writer, ought to adopt measures designed to ensure the implementation of political, economic, cultural and other programmes which pave the ground for the full restoration of their legitimate and national rights in their homeland. To achieve that aim, said the writer, the Palestinian leadership should open the door for the Palestinian opposition to air its views and present demands which, he said, would no doubt improve the Palestinian negotiating position in the coming stage.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily criticised U.S. President Bill Clinton for demanding that Arab governments end their boycott of Israel while maintaining their sanctions against Iraq. Mohammad Kawash said Israel has offered nothing to the Arab states, and it continues to occupy their lands, so; he said, it deserves no favourable treatment. It is regrettable to see Arab states reacting timidly to Washington's demands for ending the boycott on Israel, which has failed to comply with U.N. resolutions and to implement agreements reached with the Palestinians, said the writer.

The View from Academia

Little things that really matter

By Dr. Ahmad A. Majdoubihe

A COUPLE of weeks ago, I touched briefly on the quality of service at various establishments entrusted with the task of catering for the diverse needs of customers or consumers, both our own citizens and visitors from abroad. The point, raised primarily in relation to the subject of tourism, was that our restaurants, hotels, business firms, banks, airline offices, shops and government bureaux offer poor-quality services and are in need of radical changes in their approach and conduct. In what follows, I wish to explore the matter in more detail.

Let me begin by citing a few examples.

A friend of mine has been frequenting a coffee-shop for the past two years. Its location is convenient and the view is quite nice. The first few times he went there and ordered coffee, they brought him along with two large pieces of cake. The first time, feeling a little embarrassed and confused, he drank the coffee, ate one piece of cake, then paid the bill and left. The second time, they did exactly the same thing: Along with the coffee, they brought the same amount of cake. He called the waiter and explained to him that he did not order the cake. The waiter said something to the effect that the cake they made was quite delicious that it was their specialty, that "it is a fashionable custom" to have cake with coffee. My friend insisted that he did not order the cake and that he did not feel like eating it. Grudgingly, the waiter took the plate away. The incident was then repeated several times until all the waiters working in the coffee-shop recognised my friend and stopped bringing the cake with the coffee, even though they treated him a bit less courteously now. After a while, due to increased complaints by other customers no doubt, the coffee-shop stopped playing the coffee-cake trick entirely. Instead, each time you asked for a cup of coffee, they brought you a mug containing triple the amount you normally wish to drink and pay for.

Another friend of mine decided with a couple of friends of his the other day to dine at a fashionable outdoor restaurant. The high season being over, there were only a few customers there. Many waiters, the restaurant being quite large, sat in circles at a number of tables nearby

whispering and laughing. The music was too loud. Upon repeated requests to waiters passing by, the music finally got turned down. A head waiter, looking more like a sultan than a waiter, approached and took the order absent-mindedly and disinterestedly (except when he insisted on an item my friend did not want to order, such as Russian salad or spiced liver). When the food was brought to the table, and the group started to eat, a waiter stood close by staring at the food on the table. The minute a plate was emptied, he rushed to the table and snatched the plate away — at times it was not entirely empty. There was one plate with two pieces of chicken. He eyed it several times, then dashed to the table and tried to empty it into another plate half-full of sheesh kebab. The pieces of chicken were stuck to the plate. With his fingers he pushed them into the kebab plate and ran into the kitchen with the empty plate.

Last week, I went to open an account at a prestigious local bank. The process which should have taken at least 10 minutes took 45. The teller helping me kept answering the phone, even though another teller sat at the same desk working on some files. I gave him my I.D. upon his request. He looked at it then gave it back to me. A few minutes later, he asked me to spell my last name for him. Somewhat angrily, I took out my I.D. from my wallet again and extended it back to him without saying anything. Three customers came at various intervals to ask for some check-books they had ordered. Each time he stopped working on my application and helped them, even though the amount of time he spent looking for each check-book was equivalent to that needed for opening an account. The following day he called me up to tell me there was an error in the account number he gave me.

These three incidents speak for themselves. Why is it that at any decent restaurant in the more fortunate part of this globe, customers order exactly what they wish and the order comes in the exact form they like but at our restaurants you are constantly unpleasantly surprised? If I want a cup of coffee I ought to get a cup, not a mug. If the waiter moves the pieces of chicken with his fingers in front

of my eyes, what does the cook do in the kitchen when no one is looking? If I cannot eat at ease and digest food at my own pace in a restaurant which is half-empty, what is the purpose of dining out? How can we talk about encouraging investment and dream of economic wealth and prosperity in the years to come when we cannot open a bank account speedily and efficiently at one of our most highly praised local banks?

Eventually things will change, of course. Eventually developments elsewhere in the globe reach us and we develop. Eventually the wheel of history turns and we turn with it, whether we like it or not and whether we do it willingly and unwittingly or not. But should we not do something to speed up the process of change? Should we not live to make our own impact on developments and events? Should we not put an end to our carefree, careless, mediocre, poor mode of performance?

We should, and we can. I met a fellow countryman half a year ago who received his M.B.A. in the USA and worked for a few years in Canada. He was being hired, he told me, by a neighbouring Arab country to train the personnel of one of its banks in the art of customer service. His sole job is to train tellers how to smile to customers, how to look at them, how to speak to them, how to sit or stand in front of them, how to take down information speedily and effectively, how, how, how...

This is the kind of training our establishments are in need of. There are many experts in the country and outside it who can help train our tellers, our waiters, our tour guides, our customs officers at the airport, our airline stewards, our policemen, our drivers, our cashiers, our receptionists, our telephone operators and our public relations employees.

It is the little things that really count. I can eat anywhere I want or drink coffee anywhere I want; but not anywhere I want to eat or drink comfortably and joyfully. I can put my money in any bank; but not at any bank can I feel home and at ease. Psychology is most often more important than biology, business and economics. Poetry is more important than prose.

By Maggie Fox
Renter

M. KAHL

BELFAST — Northern Ireland's Protestant extremists will continue their campaign of bombing and shooting because, for the moment at least, they have nothing to lose, according to sources close to the groups.

The sources said that despite a 13-year-old Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire the Protestant militias had no motive for laying down their arms because they believe they have been left out of the peace process by the British and Irish governments.

For that reason, armed Protestant groups will use violence to carry home their message that Northern Ireland must remain British.

On Monday the extremists hammered home their message by attacking a Dublin-bound train.

Only the detonator of the bomb exploded on the train, slightly wounding two women, but police said it contained two kg of explosives, enough to maim and cause serious damage had it gone off properly.

People connected to the outlawed armed Protestant groups have been warning they are mistrustful of a 13-day-old IRA ceasefire and anxious to make sure their views are considered in talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

"They think, if bombing and shooting and violence has got the IRA to the table, why can't it work for us?" explained one source with close connections to the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), the extremist group that planted the Dublin bomb.

The group said the explosion was intended as a warning to the Irish government that Northern Ireland is still British and will not be coerced, forced or persuaded into a United Ireland.

The combined loyalist military command, which groups the UVF and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), issued a statement last week saying it would not match the IRA ceasefire until it was assured it was permanent, that an IRA splinter group would also honour it and that the

official Reward is a

promise that Sinn Fein,

the IRA's political wing,

can join talks on the future of the province. But the extremists fear there must be something else — some diminution of the province's British status.

And if Sinn Fein does

join talks, the extremists would be completely left out. Protestant officials say that as they have no elected representatives, the illegal groups are not invited to any talks, even if they offer a ceasefire, too.

A politician with close ties to the extremists, Gary McMichael of the Ulster Democratic Party, said the Dublin attack was not something valuable in return.

"The intention has always been there, to move their operations at some stage across the border. I think it was inevitable," he said.

Chris Hudson of the Peace Train Peace Organisation, who has worked with Protestant extremists,

said: "I hope it is a last show of strength... but I fear it could be part of an ongoing campaign."

Unionists — the name given to Protestants who support the union of Northern Ireland with Britain — were enraged when Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds welcomed Sinn Fein head Gerry Adams to Dublin just days after the ceasefire.

Making clear their doubts about the IRA's good intentions, and perhaps trying to provoke the guerrillas into breaking their ceasefire with a steady stream of attacks. On the night it took effect they killed one Catholic and shot at another.

A few days later they exploded a car bomb outside the press office of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA. On Saturday they set a booby-trap bomb outside the back door of a local Sinn Fein councillor but his daughter discovered the device and alerted police.

Such near-misses raise the question of whether the UVF is simply trying to warn, or is incompetent in attempts to spread real terror. One UVF source said after the car-bomb: "They are sending a message that they are still players."

Police say the extremists are improving their bombing skills and they have started to imitate IRA tactics such as car bombs and

Vatican big loser in Cairo

By G.H. Jansen

WHOEVER has gained from the Cairo conference on population and development there is one clear loser: the Holy See, the so-called Vatican "state."

And the reason is obvious: The Vatican, that is to say John Paul II, by insisting on discussing abortion and nothing else prevented the conference, for five days out of nine it was scheduled to last, from talking about a whole range of other subjects which every other delegation, over 150 of them, considered of much greater importance than "right to life."

At the end of five days the conference decided to simply set aside continuing Vatican objections and to push ahead with its agenda.

This meant not just a loss of face but, more importantly, a loss of prestige and respect and influence: Vatican diplomacy for long reputed to be well informed and subtle was seen to be the very opposite at Cairo.

What some people at Cairo found especially irritating was the lofty line taken by the Vatican delegation that it was not concerned with politics but with questions of ethics and morality — as if ethics and morality have nothing to do with politics.

What is more, the general atmosphere of anti-Vatican discontent encouraged Vatican critics to speak out so

loud, for instance, liberal American Roman Catholics could say such things as, "The Cairo conference witnessed the end of the medieval papacy" and "the end of the last absolute monarchy on Earth". Because the loyalty to the Vatican of a great many Roman Catholics round the world was shaken by the dismantling performance it put on at Cairo.

There were even questions raised whether the Vatican state could and should really be considered a state since there are no women and children among its citizens, only old and middle aged celibate males.

LETTERS

Not true

To the Editor:

In the September 13 issue, the "News in Brief" part of your newspaper reproduces a Petra report on a meeting with Minister of State Mohammad Dweib where I introduced my successor, Yves Giovannoni. The report claims that I "said that the progress in the peace process was reflected positively on the treatment of (Palestinian) detainees in Israeli hands". I did not say this. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) submits its bilateral and confidential reports on the treatment of detainees it visits only to the detaining authorities, in this case the Israeli authorities.

Dr. Marco Sassoli,
Head of the Delegation
ICRC - Amman

Why

By Helen Kop

During the afternoon of Saturday, September 17, 1994, I was walking along the beach in Tel Aviv, Israel, when I saw a woman sitting on a bench. She was wearing a white dress and had her hair tied back. She was looking at the sea and seemed to be lost in thought. I approached her and asked if she wanted to talk to me. She agreed and we began to have a conversation. We talked about her life in America and how she had come to Israel. She told me that she had been married to a man named Tom for 20 years, but they had recently separated. She said that she was now single and was considering getting a divorce. She also mentioned that she had a son named Michael who was 10 years old and that he lived with his father. She said that she was thinking about moving back to America, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to do that. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new job, but she wasn't sure what kind of job she wanted to have. She said that she was considering becoming a teacher or a nurse. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new apartment, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to do that. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new car, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to do that. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new job, but she wasn't sure what kind of job she wanted to have. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new apartment, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to do that. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new car, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to do that. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new job, but she wasn't sure what kind of job she wanted to have. She also mentioned that she had been thinking about getting a new apartment, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to do that. 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Weekender

A better education for a better society

By Mohammad Mashriqah

Imad Younes, a Jordanian theatre director who graduated from Yarmouk University's Theatre Art Department two years ago has a good experience in artwork benefiting children.

Younes has contributed a great deal to programmes carried out by the Friends of Children Club. He is known to be enjoying high cultural qualifications, active in theatre work and over-enthusiastic about voluntary work for his community whenever he is approached to extend a helping hand.

When the Ministry of Education appointed him as an arts teacher in a school located in the outskirts of Amman, Younes did not hesitate to take up the job because he believed that an intellectual and an artist has a cultural mission to perform despite the difficulties involved.

Although Younes never specialised in the art of drawing and painting, the ministry's title for his job was teacher of arts. The Ministry of Education should not be ashamed in creating a special class for theatre art and should realise that school theatre is an art which often manifests itself in official occasions.

But as soon as Younes took up his new post at the school, he was confronted with a wave of criticism against his work on the part of certain parties. The arts room was one day broken in and its tools and instruments destroyed and on another occasion, certain parties urged students to refrain from responding to Younes' encouragement to them to take up arts but rather to oppose his moves and foil his desire to set up a school theatre group.

When Younes tried to explain his ideas about arts and theatre work and their role in the community's advancement and development, he was openly attacked not at the level of individual classes alone but at the school level too.

One day one of the school teachers stood before the 1,500 students asking them openly to boycott the arts teacher, accusing him of being an infidel who was trying to spread vice and corruption in the school. That teacher quoted sayings by the Prophet Muhammad and his companions and caliphs to back his allegations.

When Younes complained about the crusade levelled against him, suggesting that verbal attacks could easily turn into physical assault on him, the

school principal promised to find a solution to that problem.

But the hostility never stopped, prompting Younes to take the matter up with the Ministry of Education which counselled patience pending arrangements for his transfer to another school.

But Younes is insisting on staying in his school and is determined to stand up to this confrontation. He says: "After passing through this experience I feel more than at any time in the past that arts and their role in society are of utmost importance."

Younes feels he has made friends and found supporters among the teachers and the students alike.

"My case has created a wide-scale controversy in the school and the town and for this reason I will not run away and will not quit teaching as I had intended earlier," stressed Younes. "I have chosen the path of confrontation so as to prove to the fanatic teacher and his likes and supporters that they are exploiting religion and abusing the Islamic faith, as I believe that theatre and art could be efficiently utilised as an important tool in education and in spreading noble values."

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

"Indeed my religious studies at the university had helped me a great deal when I turned to theatre art," he added.

The Ministry of Education's School Activities Department employs a well-known artist by the name of Maher Khamash and a musician called Mohammad Hazzaz.

Ministry officials say that Younes' problem is not unique or the only problem facing the ministry. Indeed cases similar to Younes' were often heard. Owing to the presence of fanatically-minded people who had influenced the ministry's departments for a long time.

Very few schools have a theatre-room or an arts corner and the farther away you move from Amman towards the rural region, the more you can feel that the concept of arts is a strange one to the inhabitants.

If you ask why, you are sure to get hard and bitter replies like that the ministry has a limited budget for promoting arts and indeed the ministry's total annual

budget for the whole country does not exceed JD 1,500.

Furthermore, funds allocated for promoting theatre art are normally spent on buying cups and prizes that are normally given away to those excelling in writing essays or reciting verses.

Graduates of the arts, music, theatre, painting and other schools and colleges normally accept a job as teachers of arts earning a salary not exceeding JD 130 a month and without any other incentives.

One can therefore understand why promising artists and musicians like Hakim Harb, Hassan Sabaeih, Ismat Farouq and Seif Shihadeh have preferred to remain unemployed, waiting for the chance to work for a television series or a theatre, rather than working as teachers for the Ministry of Education.

Teacher Samar Dudin once told a cultural seminar that any radical change in the society's behaviour should start at the school level and she demanded that the Ministry of Education re-examine its school curricula and the way teachers are being prepared at the institutes and universities.

Naturally these calls have gone into thin air exactly like all the resolutions and recommendations passed by the educational development conferences, simply because of the obvious obstacles impeding the path of their implementation.

Daring and revolutionary decisions are required immediately, such as cancelling half of the social sciences curricula at all school stages because these are obsolete and run contrary to the spirit of the modern age.

Indeed some of these curricula tend to consecrate ignorance and conflicts with science.

The ministry is called on to carry out a gradual change of its teaching staff and to link curricula to modern science, modern education and the experiments of the advanced and developed nations.

We demand that the ministry halt all moves to politicise the schools and religion, a practice intended to fulfil the interests of particular groups. Otherwise, any talk about modernisation and development remains unrealistic.

Any change in society should start at the school level and through curricula and teaching methods. This change should acquire top priority in the ministry's programmes.

BOOK REVIEW

A fast moving romance

Strayed At Sea
By Isam Ammari

The fact is Jordan nowadays embraces a considerable number of good poets and short story writers, but there are a few novel writers and Isam Ammari, born in Al Husn, a town in the northern part of Jordan, is one of those few. He published three novels ever since he started his literary pursuit in the late seventies — *She Came Back To The Night Of Strangers, Starved At Sea And A Traveller With No Address* — in addition to short story collections.

This book is his second novel published in 1986. It tells about a lonely man in his early forties who falls in love with a married Lebanese woman whom he meets at Geneva Airport on his way to Paris. In Paris he has the chance to meet her twice which are surprisingly enough for him to nourish hot feelings for her and to start a romance that takes him far, far away.

Through interwoven events that take place in more than one site, namely Geneva, Paris, Amman, Beirut — and in which other personalities play minor roles, the writer goes on to pave the way for the climax of his novel: The death of the heroine.

The main character of this novel is an advocate with seemingly unstable emotions who spends twenty years of his life ruminating and living on his first love while in college, meanwhile shutting the feelings inside him and dedicating his whole life to his job.

The writer exerts all efforts to make us see his hero as a great sentimental having a sublime faithfulness to no avail, for through the most part of the novel he seems to be a sensuous man running after his lust and we see him falling in love with the body of the woman rather than with the woman herself. So it isn't the personality, the character or the intellectuality of the women that attracts his attention. He seems to have fallen deeply in love with her the moment she gets well dressed up for their second date revealing thus the beauty of her stature. Listen to him saying in the first person singular: "I found her waiting for me... her hair was raised over her head in a proportional, excellent hair style that revealed the beauty of her neck... A sweet smile enhanced her lips and a blazing brightness inflamed her eyes. She was wearing a black dress that wrapped her body showing her stature and I found myself standing before the all captivating beauty in the world. I went on looking at her attentively with puzzled eyes till I forgot all about myself and about others...". Similar descriptions are stressed even more vividly in other parts of the book.

The topic of the novel is ordinary, even classic. But the author is keen to frame it in a melodramatic atmosphere and to give it a modern structure — he uses extensively short sentences and tries to describe the psychological state of his characters — not very successfully because his analysis is superficial and does not probe deeply to show us the real dilemma. He often resorts to abruption of scenes and incidents so one incident or scene brings to his mind another one from the old past. His similes are to the point at some places: "I see in this world nothing but that grey horizon...", "...there in Amman where the city squats on seven hills we wait impatiently for rain to fall with our eyes fixed on the sky as mothers would eye their children with care...", "...every now and then I checked my watch's pointers which seemed as if they stopped moving or that they were moving very slow, slower than the creeping of a tortoise struck by old age...", "...the pale pictures of the past seemed as if their eyes were staring at mine and I found not the means of shoving them off." Yet at other places the simile are raw: "My days were like a prey chased by black crows... and the attempt to run away with my days from the butchery of the black crows...", "the violet colour reflexed shades of its derivations in her eyes and on her lips... and she looked like a Lebanese apple ready for anyone to take it" and sometimes they are irrelevant and have no link whatsoever with the described situation "...and as a drowning man who found a straw so he clung to it with all his power.. despite the fact that thorns bled his feet.. and here is Ilham representing a life belt..."

One traces many unnecessary repetitions of the same event all over the novel turning it into a one unchangeable, preprogrammed panorama as if the main character, or the hero, had nothing else to do but to enjoy dinners, lunches, breakfasts, coffee or cigarettes. Nearly half of the time allotted for the novel — for each novel should have a time span in which events take place — is spent on food, beverages, coffee drinking and cigarettes smoking. Moreover the author doesn't give the reader time to think or rest. The tempo of the novel is very fast and scenes and events follow each other successively and unbreakably which at times tire the reader, yet apart from this, it is obvious that the author has the necessary tools for writing. He knows the tricks of excitement and suspense that make a novel enjoyable to read. One comes out with the impression that it is a novel better suited for movies than for reading.

Muhammad Daoud Tahboub

Thoughts for this week

Ask yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher-economist (1806-1873).

Don't forget to love yourself — Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

It's not love's going hurts my days/ but that it went in little ways — Edna St. Vincent Millay, American author and poet (1892-1950).

In every person, even in such as appear most reckless, there is an inherent desire to attain balance — Jakob Wassermann, German author (1873-1922).

Fiery filmmaker Lina Wertmüller mows with Ciao, Professore

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

New film, *Ciao, Professore* although she seems as peppery as ever, the movie reflects a mellow Wertmüller, with its overtones of *To Sir With Love* and *Dead Poets Society*.

Italian favourite Paolo Villaggio plays a schoolteacher from the north who is assigned because of a clerical error to a primary school in Naples. He faces an impossible situation, because the street kids are determined not to be educated. He finally is transferred, believing himself a failure, but his students think otherwise.

Where did she find such great kids?

"In the streets of Naples," she said. "I had a great selection because I talked to — I don't know how many — many, many thousand. Finally, I came down to 60, and with this

new film, *Ciao, Professore* although she seems as peppery as ever, the movie reflects a mellow Wertmüller, with its overtones of *To Sir With Love* and *Dead Poets Society*.

"Little by little they began to fall in love with this work, because it is exactly like a game. They are wonderful in that, because they are very serious when they play a game. It became easy (to direct them) because they were playing, a game together. They knew all the script, not just their parts, but everyone's. Even the mothers, the fathers, they memorise the script."

Wertmüller was asked about the saying that all Italians are actors. After consulting with her interpreter about the question, she replied:

"No, no. But the Neapolitans more than the others. They are a special

people, with the sun, the music, the vitality. I think the most acting people in Italy are the Neapolitans and the Sicilians. Not Palermo, but Catania."

She admitted that shooting in Naples was difficult "because it is so full of noise and confusion." She had to move out of the city to shoot many of the scenes.

Now that Federico Fellini is gone, Lina Wertmüller is one of the last of the great directors who gave luster to the Italian cinema in the postwar and later years. She manages to get her projects made, but she admitted that it isn't easy for other filmmakers.

When asked about the state of the Italian film business, she laughed bitterly.

"It's full of problems,

career as a schoolteacher.

But the theatrical world intrigued her, and she toured Europe with a puppet troupe, then became a dramatic actress in the theatre. In 1963, a close friend, Marcello Mastroianni persuaded Fellini to hire Wertmüller as an assistant director on *8½*. That same year she wrote and directed her first film, *The Lizards*.

Soon she joined forces with Giannini for *The Seduction Of Mimi*, which won her the director's prize at the Cannes Film Festival and made her an international figure. He continued playing the shiftless, disheveled wanderer in *All Screwed Up, Swept Away, Seven Beauties* and other Wertmüller films which were characteristically redolent of sex and politics.

Wertmüller was born in Rome 64 years ago, her father a lawyer of aristocratic Swiss descent. Her rebellion started early, causing her dismissal from several Catholic schools. Her insight for *Ciao, Professore* stems from the fact that she started her own working

reaction to my latest fad has varied from disbelief to outright hilarity. This has not stopped me. Have I lost any weight? After two weeks I had lost a pound and thought I was on course for the steady weight loss they had promised.

Four weeks on, and although I eat enormous quantities of former "forbidden foods", I have now added more sensible foods like macaroni cheese or fish and chips to my "happy hour", as it has become known in our house. I have kept very strictly to the rules and follow my reward meal a couple of hours later with a high-protein meal, although I am hardly hungry and occasionally give this third boring meal a miss altogether.

For the first two weeks I made regular sorties to the local news-agent to ensure I had abundant supplies of chocolate. A typical reward meal would consist of three different bars of chocolate and any other fattening cakes that had tempted me from the bakery window, topped up with the latest flavour in American ice cream. I wasn't going to waste this hour on boring foods like masses of fruit and biscuits dipped into a heart-warming mix-

I have become adept at fiddling my social and eating life round this "happy hour". My pièce de résistance has been a chocolate fondue evening — masses of fruit and biscuits dipped into a heart-warming mix-

— The Independent.

Why not call it the Häagen-Dazs diet?

By Helen Kon

Picture the scene. It is 5.30 in the afternoon and I am sitting at a table surrounded by three assorted bars of milk chocolate, a pot of Häagen-Dazs ice cream, a croissant and a jam doughnut. No, I am not Bessie Bunter but trying out the latest diet to hit our shores from the United States. "The Carbohydrate Addict's Diet" promises to be your lifelong solution to weight control. I thought I had seen them all — calorie-controlled, fat-free, milkshake, diet cookie, banana diets — but this one really takes the biscuit.

Let me put my cards on the table here and now. I am not a serious dieter. I have never lost weight nor have I stuck to any sort of eating (or starving) plan for more than two weeks at a time. I am about 10 pounds heavier than I ought to be, and it is only the thought of summer holidays and swimming costumes that force me to consider my excess baggage.

still lose weight? This is too good to be true so I decided to put the diet to the test.

A late protein breakfast consisting of cheese omelette or kippers and salad at around 11 a.m. or later, did banish all feelings of hunger until at least 5pm. Since this has traditionally been the "nibbling" time of day for me I decided to take my reward meal then. I'm afraid that I ignored all concept of a balanced meal and my meal consisted entirely of foods that I have been limiting or denying myself for stay off.

Dr. Rachael Heller, who discovered the diet, was a long-term fatty who has now been a slim eight stone for several years. She claims to have helped hundreds, even thousands, of people through the Carbohydrate Centre that she and her husband, Richard, have established in New York. This was too good to pass up, I thought. Eat whatever you want for

ture of white Toblerone with double cream and brandy — consumed within the prescribed hour. Not bad for someone on a diet.

Reaction among friends to my latest fad has varied from disbelief to outright hilarity. This has not stopped me. Have I lost any weight? After two weeks I had lost a pound and thought I was on course for the steady weight loss they had promised.

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— The Independent.

No dreamland

By Jean-Claude Elias

Life is but a series of compromises and working with a personal computer (PC) is certainly no exception. Although the main reason why we often have to accept less than perfect solutions is simply, sadly, the economic considerations also interfere, preventing us from taking ideal decisions.

Let's jump right into first example. You want to purchase a new monitor (screen) for your PC and make sure you had enough cash to buy at least a 17" model. Sizes usually go from 9" to 21", with the 14" model being the most commonly used.

The problem is that smaller screens usually have better image attributes than the larger ones. The resolution is higher, the lines sharper, the colours brighter and the overall picture contrast better. Just like TV sets. So what do you buy? A large screen that would be perfect for games and CAD (Computer Aided Design) or a medium size one that would let you enjoy a higher quality picture and that would fit on any desk?

Packing up the data files, a vital operation that any PC user should regularly perform, is another example of how to evaluate things before acquiring additional hardware, knowing that there is no such thing as an optimal solution. Tape back up is very practical and inexpensive. It is however, slow and somewhat unreliable. Floppy disk is the cheapest form of back up but is not suitable for large files. Hard disk back up is fast, reliable but expensive and requires a delicate handling of the media itself.

Choosing a good printer doesn't sound like a difficult task either. Do we get an excellent laser printer with razor sharp printout but limited to regular size paper and black ink only, or a dot-matrix model that handles large, A3 size paper, though its printing quality is well under the laser's?

chip talk



Even software selection is never easy. Microsoft best selling Word 6.0 word processor is feature laden and does just about everything you need but ironing your shirts. However, it will eat up to 17 MB (megabytes or millions of characters) of your hard disk and takes several seconds to start working each time you load it. On the other side, Airis Write Now programme occupies only 300 KB (kilobytes or thousands of characters), loads in a split second, works at lightning speed but does not have but a tiny fraction of Word 6.0 capability. Where do you go from here?

Bigger or more expensive is not always better. Sometimes even faster is not necessarily preferable. Some pieces of software and computer games actually do not work with fast clock rates. A famous case is the "PC Globe, version 5.0" that cannot be activated if the system is running at 66 MHz. It needs 50 or 33 MHz for that. Fortunately, most machines have turbo switches that let the user reduce the clock speed.

The computer specialists themselves have hard times going in the right direction. Trial and error often is the standard approach, though some thinking and careful analysis would certainly reduce the amount of damage such a procedure would cause to our wallet and/or to our precious time capital.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

GOOD MORNING Differential Risks

I don't know why grown ups take dangerous risks (some of which are lethal). Presumably normal people overeat, drink more than they should, race cars, gamble, smoke, speed, cheat (sometimes calling it private enterprise). But if it's a teenager taking the risk. Watch out for all the labels, interpretations, and diagnostic categorisations pasted on him or her.

☆ ☆ ☆

AMAZING FACTS

Not only the cow and the goat are used for milk and cheese making, in some parts of the world, farmers milk reindeer, llamas and yaks!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Surprisingly enough, the tomato is classed as a fruit by scientists, because it contains seeds. It is regarded as a berry, like the raspberry or strawberry. Some other foods we use as vegetables are regarded as fruits --- runner beans and cucumbers for example.

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In old Russian tradition compelled the most curiosit figure attending a wedding to sign a statement ensuring the continuity of marriage for at least a year, otherwise he had to pay 150 roubles as a fine.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

In the islands of the Seychelles, the inhabitants grow palms which produce huge, double coconuts which can weigh up to 18 kgs!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

A stag, aged 22, took up a position of a mayor in Lagunitas, a town in Texas!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PARTY GAMES

THE MILK BOTTLE RACE

(Any above 10 - Indoors & outdoors)

All you need for this game are two or more empty milk bottles, a fairly long piece of string for each bottle, each piece being of the same length, and short sticks (even pencils will do).

Tie one end of each piece of string firmly to a milk bottle and the other end to a stick (or pencil).

Ask the children (or grown-ups) sit on the floor or on chairs, holding the sticks across their knees. On the starting signal, let them twist the sticks to wind up the string; the first one to get the bottle up to touch the stick is the winner. Heats and finals can be run if so desired.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of the following metals are attracted by a magnet? — tin, brass, nickel, radium, iron, osmium.

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2. In what English towns are the following streets to be found? — Briggate, Long Row, Deansgate, Coney Street, Fargate.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

3. What were the first books published by the following? — Dickens, Tennyson, Hardy.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

4. What entirely different meanings has the word "FLAG"?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

5. In what part of a house would you find the following? — purlin, joist, newel.

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TIME FOR FUN

At Cairo Railway Local Broadcasting Station the following announcement was made: "We attract passengers' attention that the next train going to Aswan is now moving from Aswan!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

A man once bought a piece of meat and placed it on the table in front of his hungry children saying: "Each one has to chew it quite a little and then give it out to his brother sitting next to him!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

POLICE OFFICER: "You're accused of hitting the lamp-post while drinking."

DRUNKARD: "No, sir. (He) was mistaken not me. Why was he standing in the street?"

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CHARMING SECRETARY: "You'll see the doctor after 5 minutes, sir."

VISITOR: "Just 5 Minutes! What a pity!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

A friend at a law-court asked a janitor who had spent 20 years in service: "How much is your salary now?"

JANITOR: "Both the judge and I charge JD 800"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

INSERT THE MISSING LETTERS

A	F	?	J	I
D	C	?	G	L

The archipelago of things to come

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

(1) The Archipelago of Architecture

Scattered islands in an expanse of water are called an "archipelago." Stockholm (Sweden), by virtue of its location — built on twenty two islands — is arguably one of the most beautiful capital cities in the world; the Stockholm Archipelago consists of ten thousand islands most of which are uninhabited. Architecture, like any other field of knowledge, has been ossified into a rigid structure of knowledge over many centuries of development. Rapid conceptual changes are at present, in the West at least, attacking this rigid structure with the inevitable result of loosening it up so that it can flow into a new and complex social mainstream. As the continuity of architectural culture is lost, the world of architecture becomes fragmented into detached and lone works, an archipelago of architecture.

Architecture must learn to flow in the new, risky and unknown ways in which society itself is beginning to flow. More than this, it must embody new coherences within the turbulent streams of modern life; and even more, architecture must instigate streams and turbulences of its own, participating and not merely expressing. There is neither the time nor the need to express anything anymore, but only to be, or better yet, to become.

(2) Art and Truth: A Problem of Definition

What is knowledge? What is truth? What is time? What is beauty? What is art? In philosophy, since the time of Socrates, there has been an assumption that it

should be possible to define the words in question, and that we do not really know what we are talking about if we cannot define our words. Nowadays it is no longer assumed so widely that definitions of this kind must or should be available. Merely verbal questions of this kind may be among the most important questions we can ask, having to do with fundamental concerns of human life.

The attempt to define art has a certain urgency which makes it different from attempts to define knowledge, truth, etc. If I, an ordinary consumer of art, have gone to some trouble to visit an art gallery, theatre or concert hall, I may complain that my time and money have been wasted, that what has been presented to me is not merely not good art (which may be a matter of taste), but that it is not to be recognised as art at all, since it does not conform to what is normally understood by this word.

Concepts such as those of art, knowledge and truth do not spring up at random; they are reflections of human needs and interests, of the situation in which we find ourselves and our perception of the world in which we live. Controversy has been a characteristic feature of the concept of art. But today, it is in a state of crisis unlike any that existed before. Almost daily we are confronted with new kinds of objects or performances which challenge our notions of what art ought to be.

If the only requirement on art is that of novelty, then we must not be surprised to find an ever wider range of objects and performances being put forward as art, until, it would seem, anything might become describable as art.

Samer Bagaeen teaches architecture at the Applied Science University.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 15

7:15 Battlestar Galactica

9:10 Murder She Wrote

How To Make A Killing Without Really Trying

A rich businessman escapes an assassination attempt. His friend Mrs. Fletcher starts investigating his associates.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Shadow Of Doubt

Starring: Teresa Wright and Joseph Cotton

How can the police tell a young girl that her uncle is a murderer and wanted by the police? The girl strives to prove that without a shadow of doubt her uncle is innocent.

Friday, Sept. 16

7:15 In Spite Of All

7:30 The Munsters Today

Herman is sick. His many "personalities" frighten his wife and drive her to call for a doctor

8:30 G.P.

Memories

A woman lies in a coma as a result of a "mistake." A legal claim is filed against the clinic.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Emilie

Emilie stays with Charlotte on her dying bed. She looks ahead for the New Year of 1902 and a little baby.

Saturday, Sept. 17

7:30 Dimension

8:30 Movies, Games And Videos

9:10 The Campbells

The Firebrand

A newspaper is attacked for speaking openly against the British.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Missing

Starring: Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek and John Shea

Sunday, Sept. 18

7:15 F.B.I — Untold Stories

Lady Skyjacker

Under the threat of a bomb explosion on board a plane, the F.B.I. negotiates with a woman hijacker the release of a longtime prisoner.

8:30 Step By Step

9:10 Quantum Leap

Future Boy

Sam brings together a daughter and a father whose relationship has soured.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Where There's Smoke

Anita is back with revenge on her mind — while Luke has got "glitter" in his eyes.

Monday, Sept. 19

7:30 Black Beauty

Daylight Robbery

The sinking of the ship Estonia and the disappearance of Beauty lie heavy on Bella's mind.

8:30 Home Free

Front Page

Mathew and sister are out to expose a judge who receives bribes.

9:10 Galactic Odyssey

10:00 News In English

10:20 Matrix

Conviction Of His Courage

Matrix is called upon to save the life of a doctor whose life is threatened by a gang that deals with stolen weapons.

10:50 No Job For A Lady

Tuesday, Sept. 20

7:30 Innovation

Down In The Dumps

How can man get his environment free from trash? Recycling seems a great idea.

9:10 The Commish

Commissions Ball

10:00 News In English

10:20 Come In Spinner

Wednesday, Sept. 21

8:30 Bob

Brigitte Bardot's two lives laid bare in new biography

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

LONDON — When Brigitte Bardot starred in *And God Created Woman*, police in Dallas, Texas banned blacks from seeing the film in case they became too excited.

In upscale New York, a priest bought all the tickets at a local cinema to stop people in 1956 seeing her nude on screen.

Now, approaching her 60th birthday, the French "sex kitten" once idolised by millions of men has found serenity at last in her second life as an animal rights activist campaigning for everything from Canadian seals to Mongolian wolves.

A sex symbol who attempted suicide several times, a film star bored with movie-making, a failed mother who did not see her son for 10 years — her life is a wash with conflicts and contrasts.

Now, after interviewing her husbands, lovers, family, friends and collaborators, American au-

thor Jeffrey Robinson has come up with a biography that highlights that dichotomy. It is entitled: *Bardot: Two Lives*.

Husband number one, film director Roger Vadim, said of the woman he moulded into an icon: "The first time I saw her she was still 14 and there was no doubt in my mind she was from another planet."

Husband number two, Jacques Charrier, twice attempted suicide, overwhelmed by the pressures of being Monsieur Bardot.

Husband number three, Gunter Sachs, bombarded her St. Tropez house with hundreds of roses dropped from a helicopter. "I romanced her like a circus performer," he proudly boasts.

Husband number four, Bernard D'Ormale, plunged her into controversy because of his friendship with extreme right-wing French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Bardot, also wooed with roses by Robinson

before she granted him an interview, says of her work with animals at the head of the Bardot Foundation: "I have been born again. Everything before my work with animals has nothing to do with me."

"It is not a job, it is a religion," she says of the crusade that has possessed her since she gave up the cinema in 1973. In her career, she made 48 films in 21 years to rival Marilyn Monroe as one of the great sex goddesses of the century.

Talking about her films, many of them indifferent potboilers, bores her. But turn the subject to any endangered species and she comes alive, arguing: "Anyone who wears fur is wearing a cemetery on their backs."

The foundation was launched by one of the most upmarket garage sales in the world — Bardot cleared her cupboard of everything from jewels to film costumes and sold them all at a glittering

Paris auction. She has campaigned to save dolphins, stopped elephant ivory poachers, cuddled baby seals on Canadian ice floes and even stopped a French restaurant caging a panther.

The paparazzi cameras who dogged her every step used to drive her wild. She gave birth to son Nicholas in her Paris apartment where she became a virtual prisoner of their prying lenses.

She complained at the height of her fame: "I have no life to speak of at all. I am a hunted woman. I cannot take a step without being surrounded and questioned. I am being tortured."

The glare of publicity drove her to slash her wrists in desperation. Her mood swings exhausted and drained her lovers.

German millionaire Sachs said: "I couldn't tell 10 minutes ahead what she was going to be like. She goes from being wonderfully happy to being extremely annoyed in seconds."

Vadim, who made her a star, says of Bardot: "There is still at the very bottom of her soul a colossal loneliness that is the result of a colossal ego."

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And, even with the pas-

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...men who dogged her every step used to drive her wild. She gave birth to son Nicholas in her Paris apartment where she became a virtual prisoner of their prying lenses.

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Vadim, who made

New drug cure gives addicts painless 'cold turkey'

By Richard Bastin
Reuter

SEVILLE. Spain — A painless, one-day drug treatment, pioneered in Seville, enables addicts to go through withdrawal symptoms in an intense burst while unconscious, thus avoiding the dreaded "cold turkey".

Psychologist Juan Jose Legarda, the man behind the breakthrough, says the accelerated detoxification method can help even hardened heroin and cocaine users to give up drugs.

His claims are backed by a success rate of more than 90 per cent among the 350 patients he has treated since 1992 in the Cita Drugs Clinic in this southern Spanish city.

Dr. Legarda says only half of those who enroll in traditional drug treatment

programmes ever finish the course, while 30 per cent of addicts never even seek help because of fear and the inability to cope with withdrawal symptoms.

The new process uses the chemical naltrexone, which speeds the physical reaction to withdrawal so that it occurs in a compressed time-frame, usually not exceeding four hours.

Patients are anaesthetised and placed in an intensive care unit where they are monitored throughout the treatment.

"Experiencing such intense effects while conscious would be terrible, like open-heart surgery without anaesthetic, so we decided to try anaesthesia," said Dr. Legarda, who holds a doctorate in addiction treatment from London's Maudsley Hos-

pital.

Upon waking, Dr. Legarda says, patients are drug-free with minimal side-effects. Some complain afterwards of stomach and muscle problems which had previously been masked because heroin itself is a powerful anaesthetic.

Addicts tempted to go back to drugs find themselves disappointed as the "high" is countered by a daily dose of naltrexone, which, with regular counselling, continues for a year after the crash detoxification.

"After a couple of weeks I bought some heroin because I was bored, but nothing happened, it was a waste of money," said one of Dr. Legarda's former patients.

Dr. Legarda took most of his early patients from Tocina, a small town of

8,000 people 40 kilometres east of Seville. The first addicts seeking help were introduced to him by the local priest.

Some 60 per cent of those who complete standard rehabilitation courses go back on drugs a year later, Dr. Legarda said. In comparison, only two out of 37 addicts from Tocina are back on drugs after an average of 20 months following treatment.

The high success rate complements strong economic arguments in favour of the new technique. Dr. Legarda charges 250,000 pesetas (\$1,900) for the cure. Traditional in-patient treatments require a 10-day hospital stay costing at least 50 per cent more.

No lasting physical or psychological side-effects have been found and the patients are amazed by the results.

"My whole world was heroin, it was the only thing I could think of. The cure has been a complete miracle," said Dr. Legarda's first patient, 23-year-old Juan, who spoke to Reuters in Tocina.

Some locals founded a group called Aurora (dawn) to help former addicts. They say Tocina is now a drug-free oasis.

Dr. Legarda has opened private surgeries in Madrid, Barcelona, San Sebastian and Tel Aviv, where several of his patients are Israeli army veterans who developed addictions to conventional detoxification methods without success.

Spurred on by the news that the "living hell" of withdrawal symptoms could be avoided, more and more took the treatment until even the local drug pusher, who found himself unemployed, tried Dr. Legarda's method.

The cured addicts view Dr. Legarda as a saviour. "He's the second god."

Despite the success of

the treatment, Dr. Legarda has struggled for recognition in Spain. He blames government reluctance to implement a private sector project and resentment from physicians who regard him as an outsider.

He said he had met a cool reception from the Andalusian Regional Government and from Spain's National Drugs Plan.

Psychiatrist Jose Valle Cabrera has worked in conventional drug rehabilitation and knows about the Legarda treatment. "This is not a major breakthrough, not like the invention of Penicillin for example," he said. "Nevertheless, it is very useful in the first stage, which is detoxification. The cold turkey isn't that difficult to overcome, it normally doesn't last more than a few days — what

does take longer is the process of losing the habit."

Research by Dr. Miguel Casas of the Citran Foundation in Barcelona suggests that the mental imprint of the association of drugs with feeling good could last as long as 25 years.

"The nature of the Legarda treatment means it can also represent a first step towards losing the habit," said Dr. Cabrera, adding that other places have tried naltrexone, but not in such a compressed time frame.

In Tocina, the effects of Dr. Legarda's work are clear.

"You can certainly see the difference. Drug-related crime around here has gone down considerably," said a member of Tocina's Civil Guard.

Scientists find good use for tobacco: Growing medicines

By Laura Neergaard
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — In a sweltering greenhouse in the Appalachian Mountains, Dr. Carole Cramer fingers a fat tobacco leaf that is incubating a vital human blood protein.

Early tests suggest the leafy plant can actually grow complex medicines, from blood thinners to a possible AIDS drug. And while years of research lie ahead, Dr. Cramer predicts the day farmers set aside a little tobacco to help health.

"We're on the cusp," said the Virginia tech plant pathologist. "There are a lot of hurdles still, but there's a real opportunity here."

Tobacco is under attack

from all sides. Doctors reveal its capacity to kill, the U.S. Congress is trying to ban indoor smoking and the federal Food and Drug Administration is considering regulating nicotine as a drug.

But scientists from the United States to Holland are discovering a good side to tobacco that could provide cheaper medicines and might help the small tobacco grower survive.

"Tobacco is like the white mouse of the planet World," said Bob Erwin, president of Biosource Genetics, a new California company dedicated to pharmaceutical tobacco. "You can do nearly whatever your imagination can come up with," Dr. Cramer agreed.

Tobacco contains about

4,000 chemicals. Some are dangerous. Others have commercial use:

— DNA Plant Technology Corp. has patented a variety that produces high levels of sclareol, which is used in place of animal musk in deodorants and aftershaves.

— North Carolina State University is producing Fraction-1, a protein found in all green vegetables but that tobacco produces in higher concentrations. Scientists could use the gelatin-like substance in cosmetics as little as two years. They hope later to turn Fraction-1 into a non-allergenic infant formula or perhaps even food for kidney patients, because it is so pure that it may help them avoid dialysis.

She is extracting pieces of tobacco leaf with the bacteria, sprouted the leaf bits and in a matter of weeks had grown dozens of transgenic tobacco plants — with human blood protein growing inside their leaves.

More intriguing, tobac-

co grows foreign genes so easily that it one day could do what scientists now depend on expensive bacterial systems and transgenic animals to provide: Bioengineering medicine.

Dr. Cramer took an aggressive tobacco-attacking bacteria and added to it the gene for a vital protein that keeps people from suffering serious blood clots.

She infected pieces of tobacco leaf with the bacteria, sprouted the leaf bits and in a matter of weeks had grown dozens of transgenic tobacco plants — with human blood protein growing inside their leaves.

And he just signed a

contract with the University of California, Irvine, to see whether tobacco can grow a new class of antibiotic called Defensin.

At N.C. State, scientists are also testing an anti-coagulant from tobacco.

Mr. Erwin infects plants with gene-altered viruses that grow drugs inside tobacco temporarily, instead of creating an entire transgenic plant.

He inserted a gene for a molecule called Alpha Trichosanthin, which is being tested as a possible anti-AIDS drug, into tobacco and produced 200 times the amount that grows in its natural source, the Chinese cucumber plant.

And while some people question whether medicine growth in tobacco would pose a health threat, one study indicates that's not a problem. Mogen International, in

the Netherlands, fed chickens a tobacco-grown molecule and found no ill effects.

This could one day be good news for the small tobacco growers faced with a declining market.

They pocket about \$1,000 per acre (\$2,500 per hectare) of tobacco, compared with only about \$60 an acre (\$150 a hectare) for corn or soybeans, so changing crops isn't a good economic choice, said N.C. State's Dr. Ray Long.

Pharmaceutical tobacco, however, should retain a high price, he said. "But we have to be careful and not oversell this idea, because any new venture is going to take time," Dr. Long said.

"Will medicines in tobacco ever completely fill the void for the growers? No," Dr. Cramer said. "But in the long term, maybe 10 years from now, you may see quite a large acreage of tobacco grown for medicines, enzymes to use in cosmetics, all kinds of things."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-16, 1994 7

Russian cancer institute plagued by U.S. magazine readers

By David Ljunggren
Reuter

ST. PETERSBURG — Professor Mikhail Gershonovich, one of Russia's leading cancer specialists, thought he had more than enough problems for the time being.

Sharp cuts in state funding mean the prestigious Petrov Institute of Oncology, where he has worked for the last 33 years, cannot afford to carry out fundamental cancer research and even has problems buying vital medicines.

"Could things be worse? Well, yes."

In an extraordinarily bizarre twist, the institute is being bombarded with letters, faxes and telephone calls from readers of the U.S. erotic magazine Penthouse who are convinced Mr. Gershonovich and his team have found a miracle cure for cancer.

"For me these calls are a blow because I can't do anything. We are in a very serious position. What can we do? We cannot help these patients," said Mr. Gershonovich, leafing through a pile of letters from across the globe.

Each one contains a heart-rending plea from a husband, wife, child or parent, begging for help to treat a loved relative on the verge of death.

Sadly, the Petrov team have not found a cure for any cancer, much less all of them.

Instead they are mired in a controversy in the United States over the drug Hydrazin Sulphate (HS), which helps some terminal cancer patients fend off the emaciation and weakness which often accompany the final stages of the illness.

For the last 10 years Mr. Gershonovich and his team have been carrying out tests on HS, which the U.S. authorities refuse to license on the grounds that it is not effective enough.

One U.S. journalist and HS advocate, outraged by Washington's stance, flew to St. Petersburg this year to interview Mr. Gershon-

vich. The problems started shortly afterwards.

"When I first saw the article had been printed in Penthouse I felt like dying," said Mr. Gershonovich. "We began to receive a lot of letters. He announced it was a miracle and all patients would be cured."

HS — originally a component of rocket fuel — is nothing of the sort, as Mr. Gershonovich's trials with 740 patients showed.

"We studied the drug very carefully. It is not a miracle, but it is interesting," he said, patiently pointing out as he does many times that HS can help only certain kinds of cancer.

The test results were promising — up to 25 per cent of breast cancer and Hodgkin's disease patients showed some improvement — so the Petrov Institute applied to the Russian Health Ministry for approval to market the drug.

But as in other countries, until the drug is registered, not one single HS tablet can be produced. It is a message the often desperate callers do not want to hear.

"People say 'you don't understand, this is my mother,'" said Marina Buslayeva, a senior member of the Petrov Institute.

Foreign sufferers who might be helped by HS could still have some time to wait after the drug is approved in Russia, since the Petrov wants to take out further trials here.

"To really evaluate it we need 10,000 or 20,000 patients after HS production has started," says the professor, whose team is examining how the drug might help avoid relapses after brain tumour surgery.

"We have had some very interesting results with brain tumours. But it would be premature to announce this as a cure — prolonged trials are necessary," said Mr. Gershonovich, who is not happy about the attitude of U.S. medical officials to HS.

"Their position is not right — they say if a drug

helps less than 20 per cent of patients it is ineffective. This drug is special and the common rules should not apply," he said.

"If the drug can help one in 1,000 previously incurable patients, it is of interest. This drug should be fought for," added Mr. Gershonovich, pausing to light another cigarette.

"I believe in fate. If I am to get lung cancer, I must get lung cancer," he explained with a disarming smile.

The row over HS is an unwelcome distraction in the battle to keep the Petrov above water.

The institute, founded in 1926 by oncologist Nikolai Petrov, was a leader in the anti-cancer struggle, pioneering the use of chemotherapy and surgical techniques. But economic problems triggered by the Soviet Union's collapse are taking their toll.

"At the moment we are receiving virtually no humanitarian aid — \$20,000 or \$30,000 would help us for a year. We don't need money, we need medicines," Mr. Gershonovich said.

"We've stopped asking for help. We don't want to be fed and supported. We just need a short list of medicines."

This would enable his team to continue searching for new weapons in the fight against cancer, although he dismissed talk of a miracle cure as ridiculous.

"There is no such thing as cancer — there are several hundred cancers," he said.

"Tumours have become resistant. This is a very big problem... you have to be realistic about what you can expect."

His approach is simple — people have to die of something.

"Maybe cancer is the routine terminal of life. It is so natural," said Mr. Gershonovich.

"It is not possible to expect in 100 years we will have no cancer in the world. I am a fatalist — I have seen too much."



LEADING A DIVIDED ROYAL FAMILY: Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini seems to be trying to enter the political arena as Zulu tribesmen continue to have conflicting sympathies (AFP photo)

Political row splits South Africa's Zulu royals

By Marius Bosch
Reuter

DURBAN, South Africa — The Zulu royal family is split between supporters of President Nelson Mandela and traditionalists battling for the hearts and minds of nine million Zulus, political analysts said.

"There is no such thing as cancer — there are several hundred cancers," he said.

"Tumours have become resistant. This is a very big problem... you have to be realistic about what you can expect."

His approach is simple — people have to die of something.

"Maybe cancer is the routine terminal of life. It is so natural," said Mr. Gershonovich.

"It is not possible to expect in 100 years we will have no cancer in the world. I am a fatalist — I have seen too much."

books on the Zulu-based Inkatha party's leader Mon-gosuthu Buthelezi.

The conflict between the ANC and Inkatha, the country's largest black political groupings, have killed more than 10,000 people in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal since 1984.

Political murders decreased after historic all-race elections in April installed Mr. Mandela's government of national unity, which includes Buthelezi and Inkatha officials.

But analysts and human rights groups say the battle within the Zulu royal household could spark fresh bloodletting in the killing fields of KwaZulu-Natal.

There has been a fragile peace in KwaZulu-Natal since the elections in which Inkatha won control of the province by a razor-thin majority.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini is at the centre of the row. Although he professes to be apolitical, political observers say he is moving towards the ANC and out of the shadow of Mr. Buthelezi — his uncle who claims the post of traditional Zulu prime minister through ancestry.

The Zulu royals are divided along political lines between ANC sympathizers and Inkatha traditionalists, said Linda McLean, a researcher for the watchdog human rights committee.

"There have always been ANC and Inkatha princes and chiefs. It has been a conflict that has been brewing for some time between the king and Buthelezi," Mr. McLean added.

The HRC has blamed an upsurge of political violence in KwaZulu-Natal on the

controversy around the king's invitation to Mr. Mandela to attend Shaka Day festivities later this month.

At least 24 people were killed in the province in the first week of September — the highest death toll in political strife since Mr. Mandela's inauguration in May.

Inkatha officials have said that ANC attempts to woo King Zwelithini could lead to increased levels of violence.

"One just hopes that this battle royal is nipped in the bud very urgently before it is allowed to spin totally out of control," said a senior Inkatha official, who asked not to be identified.

"Any conflict between the royals... would naturally spill out. Bearing in mind that KwaZulu-Natal is such a volatile province, it does

not take very much to exacerbate the situation."

The pro-ANC royal faction was acting out of opportunism, he said, adding: "They think that by siding up to the ANC they are going to be given a better deal."

Mr. Mare said the current squabble could be traced back nearly two decades ago to when anti-Buthelezi royals wanted to oust him.

The group, which included a sister and an uncle of the king, had the support of the white-minority apartheid government in the 1970s, but now found support in the ANC, Mr. Mare added.

"It is being fought out on the terrain of tradition. It is really bizarre in a new South Africa and a democratic country," he said.

Japan bye-election result sends political ripple

By Brian Williams
Reuter

TOKYO — The Straight Cucumber Party did not do well in Japan's weekend election. That was expected.

What was not expected was that Prime Minister Tomio Murayama's candidate would lose by nearly a two-to-one margin in the first bye-election test of his 10-week-old government.

As a result, a new round of tea-leaf gazing is in full swing with Japan's politics goes here.

Mr. Murayama's three-party coalition would rather have come closer in the upper-house bye-election in Aichi constituency, 200 km southwest of Tokyo.

And the win by the opposition-backed candidate gives impetus to the formation of a grand new party.

The question is whether the opposition win was merely a symbolic setback or a significant blow to Mr. Murayama's ability to hold his coalition together.

The election was trumped by some analysts at the start of a new era of two-party politics because it basically involved only two candidates, one backed by the 10-party opposition and one by the Murayama coalition.

The bye-election was called when the opposition incumbent was stripped of his seat for falsifying his academic record.

The poll was considered a minor referendum on Mr. Murayama's coalition, an unlikely alliance of his Socialist Party, the pro-business Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the new party Sakigake, made up of LDP defectors.

Aichi voters probably had a better idea of what a fringe candidate like the representative of the

Political vacuum boosts violence in Burundi

By Thalia Griffiths
Reuter

BUJUMBURA — The political vacuum in Burundi almost a year after the assassination of President Melchior Ndayave is fuelling violence which has killed scores of people in the past week, diplomats and aid workers say.

The Huts won a crushing victory in elections last year after 30 years of domination by the minority Tutsis but real power is still in the hands of the mainly Tutsi army.

Talks between the two sides have dragged on the Central African country for months without any real progress.

On Saturday, political parties were summoned to sign an accord on the operation of government for the four-year transition period since Ndayave's death last

October.

But the convention made no mention of the key issue — opposition demands for a vice president, to be chosen from their ranks with responsibility for defence and security, and for a council of state.

Diplomats say such demands are a bid to dilute the president's authority and make him a mere figurehead.

Delegates said the document was declared incomplete and four opposition parties refused to sign.

Burundi has the same ethnic make-up as neighbouring Rwanda which has gone through one of the worst tribal bloodlettings in history, with more than a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus massacred by militant Hutu tribesmen.

On Saturday, political parties were summoned to sign an accord on the operation of government for the four-year transition period since Ndayave's death last

state everyone will work with.

The main players are interim president Sylvestre Ntibantanganya, a Hutu from the Frodebu Party which is now the Tutsi-dominated main opposition.

Diplomats say such demands are a bid to dilute the president's authority and make him a mere figurehead.

Delegates said the document was declared incomplete and four opposition parties refused to sign.

Mr. Ntibantanganya was appointed after the death of Cyrien Ntaryamira in a plane crash with Rwandan leader Juvenal Habyarimana in Kigali on April 6. The fatal crash triggered the Rwandan bloodletting and subsequent refugee crisis.

"None of the parties was ready to take on the democratic management of the country," said Mr. Ndayave.

According to the accounts

daye's former prime minister Sylvie Kimbi, who has left politics for banking.

"There is a difference between winning elections and running a country."

"We have to do everything to defuse the tension, if everyone barricades themselves into their ethnic ghetto there will be no reconciliation."

But as the political impasse continues, attacks are increasing with the hand grenade as the weapon of choice.

"No one reports any deaths any more unless there are at least a dozen," said Eugene Nindorera of Burundian human rights group Iteka.

Last Sunday, at least 70 people, mostly women and children, were killed in an attack in the northeastern Muyinga province.

Mr. Nindorera said according to the accounts

bad received, gunmen killed three people during a mass at the Catholic church and another six were hacked to death with machetes outside.

He said most of the deaths happened at the market, which was attacked by men with guns and grenades.

He said the bishop's account put the blame on Tutsis from nearby camps for the displaced.

"People are being killed here almost every day now. Nobody claims responsibility for the attacks, it's just speculation from both sides and rumours," said Daniel Philippi, chief of delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Bujumbura.

"There are elements who want to create disturbances to put pressure on the political negotiators."

Three people died of in-

juries suffered in a grenade attack on the crowded central market in Bujumbura at midday on Friday. More than 70 people were wounded.

Mr. Philippi also said about 60 people were killed last week in attacks in the northeastern Kirundo province.

The United Nations says 220,000 of Burundi's six million people are refugees and 500,000 are internally displaced, mostly from the north and central. Aid workers say the number of displaced continues to rise as attacks continue.

"There has to be a solution. We can't simply divide the country because the Hutu and Tutsi communities are too mixed but there has to be the political will and that's not present for the moment," said rights activist Nindorera.

Rich Russians spending money in neighbouring Finland

By Martyn Summerhill
Reuter

HELSINKI — Russian tourists are streaming into neighbouring Finland and, unlike during the Soviet era, they have money for goods and property — and even gambling.

Many of them have become wealthy during the transition to capitalism after seven decades of Communism and have money to spend in Finland with its ready availability of Western goods.

Retailers say Russians now sometimes walk into a small shop and buy an entire stock of articles such as cameras. Travel agents say Russians find it easier to book trips to other parts of Europe through Finland.

"With this as an impetus, we'll move ahead towards a new party," said Kari Lutinen of Europe Tax Free Shopping, Finland. "We don't know what the money comes

from, but they have it."

Russians spent \$17.9 million on tax-free goods, 65 percent of the \$27.5 million spent by tourists from outside Scandinavia on such sales.

During the whole of 1993 they spent only \$17.7 million out of a total of \$44.2 million. Most tourists spend about \$150 a day but the Russians spent almost three times as much on average.

"They spend on television sets, kitchen equipment, house hold machines," said an information officer at Stockmann, a big department store in the Finnish capital.

"In the old Soviet days, they just didn't have any money to spend here at all," she said.

When the Soviet Union existed, many Russians visited Finland on study tours and trips connected with huge bilateral trade but

spent almost nothing in the shops.

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-16, 1994 9

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York 13/9/94	Tokyo 14/9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5640	1.5655
Deutsche Mark	1.5433	1.5383
Swiss Franc	1.2855	1.2820
French Franc	5.2775	5.2685**
Japanese Yen	98.84	98.53
European Currency Unit	1.2360	1.2382**

* USD Per STD.

** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Date: 14/9/1994			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.62	4.75	5.12
Sterling Pound	5.25	5.50	5.87
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.93
Swiss Franc	3.75	3.87	4.12
French Franc	5.31	5.46	5.81
Japanese Yen	1.37	1.52	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.63	5.78	6.12

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 14/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.0873	1.0927
Deutsche Mark	0.4510	0.4533
Swiss Franc	0.5419	0.5446
French Franc	0.1319	0.1326
Japanese Yen	0.7053	0.7088
Dutch Guilder	0.4024	0.4044
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0445	0.0447
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 14/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.040700	0.041930
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3150	0.3480
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7860	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma*	0.2000	0.2190
Cypriot Pound	1.4125	1.6050

* Per 100

France announces partial privatisation of Renault

PARIS (R) — France's conservative government, setting its sights on the country's last bastion of trade union power, announced Tuesday that it was to partially privatise car maker Renault.

Edmond Alphandery told reporters the state, which controls 79 per cent of Regie Nationale des Usines Renault, would sell 28 per cent by the end of the year.

Swedish car maker A.B. Volvo, which pulled out of a planned merger with Renault last December, is also to sell eight per cent of the French firm immediately and possibly up to 12 per cent altogether from its current 20 per cent stake.

Volvo's and the state's shares in Renault will be sold together.

The Renault flotation is the fifth major sale since the government of Prime Minister Edouard Balladur came to power last year vowing to return France's big public

sector companies to private hands.

It is also the most controversial, touching a company which is seen to be at the heart of French industry and a part of the national heritage.

The carmaker's biggest trade union, the communist-led CGT, has vowed to take action against the privatisation, although it has not specified what form this will take.

However, the government appears to have sidestepped most opposition, from left-wing politicians and trade unionists alike, by pledging to retain 51 per cent of the car maker.

Mr. Balladur has suggested a further stake could be sold if Renault were to find a new marriage partner to replace Volvo, which jilted the French company after a boardroom coup.

Renault will also make a two billion franc (\$380 million) capital increase to coincide with the privatisation.

More Jordanian banks plan operations in W. Bank, Gaza

the self-rule areas at the beginning of 1995.

The inauguration of new banks in the territories and the autonomous Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho is the second phase of a banking agreement signed this year by Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Al Ahli Bank, which shut branches in the occupied West Bank during the 1967 Middle East war, said it will resume operations in Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron and Bethlehem before the end of the year.

The Jordan Kuwait and the Palestine Investment banks, which did not operate in the territories before 1967, said they planned to inaugurate offices in the West Bank and

Subsequently, at least five Jordanian banks resumed operations after a 27-year hiatus.

Eight Jordanian banks with 31 branches operated before the 1967 war in the West Bank, which the Kingdom ruled from 1950 until Israel seized it.

Executives of the Jordan Kuwait and the Palestine Investment banks said they did not yet obtain Israeli permission to begin operations.

Jomaa Al Sharif, deputy director-general of Jordan Kuwait Bank, said a branch in Ramallah will be inaugurated first. Activities later would be expanded to Nablus, Gaza and Hebron.

He said the bank, established in 1976 with a capital of \$15 million, will begin operations in Ramallah in early 1995.

Saied Bideiri, deputy general manager of a Jordanian offshoot of the Palestine Investment Bank, said offices in Gaza and Jericho will be launched in January 1995.

"We will then expand operations to other Palestinian territories with the expansion of Palestinian self-rule," said Mr. Bideiri, a senior executive at the Jordan Arab Investment Bank.

He said the Palestine Investment Bank will have a capital of \$15 million.

Shell, Deminex get new oil concessions in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The Dutch company Shell and Germany's Deminex have expanded their oil operations in Syria by signing a contract to explore in the northeast of the country, oil industry sources said Tuesday.

A geological and geophysical survey will start soon in an area covering more than 350 square kilometres of the Euphrates River basin, the sources said.

They said the contract sets

up a new company owned 50 per cent by the Syrian Petroleum Company, 33.3 per cent by Shell and 16.7 per cent by Deminex.

Parts of the contract area, which extends from the Iraqi border west across the Euphrates, were abandoned by British Petroleum and Total, the sources said.

According to the new contract the new company should spend at least \$10 million on exploration in a

36-month period which could be extended twice for 30 months each time.

If oil is discovered a firm called Al Walid Oil Company will be established and the responsible for production and development for 25 years from the start of commercial production, with a possible extension of five years.

Its oil exports will be exempt from taxes and customs duties.

Syria, a member of OAPEC, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces around 580,000 barrels per day of crude of which around 320,000 are exported.

Shell and Deminex are already shareholders in the Furat Oil Company which produces 40,000 barrels per day of light crude from fields around the city of Dayr Azzawr, some 370 kilometres from Damascus.

Judge sentences former U.S. treasurer to prison

WASHINGTON (R) — Catalina Villapando, whose signature as U.S. treasurer once appeared on every dollar bill, was sentenced Tuesday to four months in prison for conspiracy, tax evasion and obstructing justice.

Ms. Villapando admitted that she underreported her taxable income in 1989 by

about \$167,000, cheating the U.S. government out of more than \$47,000.

U.S. district judge Thomas Hogan rejected pleas by a tearful Villapando, who was treasurer from 1989 to 1992 and one of the biggest-ranking Hispanics under former president George Bush, that she be spared a prison term.

The judge said the sentence would "remind all those who serve in high office" that they are "not beyond the law."

He also placed Ms. Villapando, 54, on three years' probation. During that time, she must spend the first four months in home detention and perform 200 hours of community service.

Judge Hogan described Ms. Villapando as "a woman who had a remarkable advancement in her life," rising to the highest levels of the government only to face the embarrassment and humiliation of three felony convictions.

He said Ms. Villapando, who had worked in the Reagan White House as a liaison to the Hispanic community, had a "special burden to obey the law" because of her high government post.

Judge Hogan said she had become accustomed to a lavish lifestyle, including a \$50,000 Jaguar car, that apparently caused her to break the law.

As part of her duties at the Treasury Department, Ms. Villapando ran the U.S. mint, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the U.S. savings bonds division.

She took a leave of absence from her post after the FBI in October 1992 raided Ms. Villapando's home and an Atlanta telecommunications firm, Communications International Inc., where she had previously worked.

Ms. Villapando has admitted filing false statements to the Treasury Department, the Office of Government Ethics and the Senate Finance Committee to conceal substantial funds she still received from her former firm in 1989 and 1990.

The value of what she received exceeded \$150,000 at a time when she had an annual government salary of \$112,300.

Ms. Villapando pleaded for leniency, asking the judge to allow her to perform community service instead of going to jail. "It is a very difficult period for me," she said, starting to cry. "I caused my family a lot of harm."

Ms. Villapando, who actively campaigned for Mr. Bush among Hispanics, could have received a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

Judge Hogan said he would not impose any fines, noting she would be burdened by a large debt for the rest of her life in paying the owed taxes and interest.

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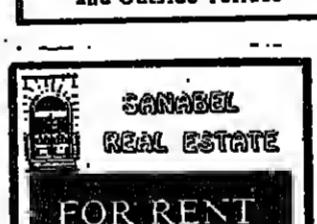
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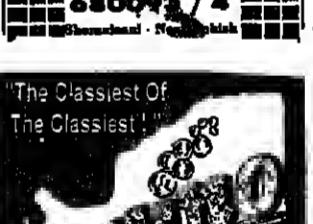
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Water 'torture' brought China's swimming success

HONG KONG (AFP) — China's women swimmers went through "torture" to reach their pre-eminence in the pool, according to the country's first Olympic swimming champion who rejected accusations of drug-taking.

Zhuang Young told the Hong Kong Standard newspaper the swimmers reached the top on a diet of herbs, training 364 days a year and keeping away from boys. Before competition, she said, the squad was put through special mountain training she described as "real torture" because the air was so thin the women could "only just manage to breathe."

China has borne the brunt of increasing suspicions of drug taking by international swimmers. China's women's squad accounted for five of the 10 world records broken at last week's world championships in Rome. The squad won all but four of the women's titles.

But Zhuang, who won a gold at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992, jumped to the defence of the squad she now helps train.

She said China had spent 20 years preparing for the current domination of the pool.

"Our success is absolutely not from drugs but through the hard work of the coaches and swimmers," said Zhuang, 22, who retired after winning her title and is now an assistant to national coach

Zhou Ming. "Anyone who knows how we internationals train would be totally convinced of our achievements."

Zhuang said the swimmers chosen for the national squad trained every day of the year except the Lunar New Year's Day. "Every day we had to train six hours in the pool and two hours in the gym," she was quoted as saying.

"We had no television, no entertainment, no dating, no home visits during our years of training," said the swimming star from Shanghai who was groomed for international competition after winning several regional titles.

"We trained night and day just for one objective: Perfect performance. That was the whole meaning of life at that time."

Zhuang said her silver medal in the 100 metre freestyle in the 1988 Seoul Olympics was a signal to the world of China's rising status. "But few paid any attention to us."

"When I won the first gold in the Olympics in '92 they said I was helped by drugs. They didn't know I had prepared for that moment for six years."

Zhuang emphatically denied that drugs were involved in her preparation.

She said the swimmers' food had Chinese herbs and medicine mixed in it "to better our body quality."

"Westerners won't believe



The Chinese 4x100m medley relay team with (from right) Dai Guobong, He Cibong, Le Jingyi and Liu Limin display their gold medals after setting a new world record with 4:01.67 min, September 10 (AFP photo)

that but we have had practical experience for more than 2,000 years."

Zhuang became so strong from the army-style training that she surprised male athletes on a visit to Hong Kong by lifting 230 pounds (104.5 kilos).

"Quite often we had to put on clothes, trousers and shoes to swim," she said.

"Westerners won't believe

only belt you are going to get."

McCall and his entourage stung out and Correa's behaviour attracted scathing criticism from London promoter Frank Warren.

Warren, acting on behalf of McCall's manager, Don King said: "Correa is a piece of garbage. If they were wanting to sell tickets for the show this sort of nonsense won't help at all."

"There was no purpose in it, McCall came here prepared to talk about the fight and conducted himself as a gentleman. He made his decision

He then threw a red suspender belt at the challenger and told him: "This is the

CHICAGO (AP) — The NBA's competition committee Tuesday recommended shortening the 3-point shot by making the line 2 uniform 22 feet (6.9 metres) from the basket, a move to increase scoring and ease congestion in the lane.

The line is currently 22 feet in the corners and extends to 23 feet, 9 inches (7.3 metres) at the top of the key. By shortening the distance, Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice president of operations, said teams will be forced to play more defence on the outside.

"It is significant when you move the 3-point line even though it is only a foot and nine inches," Thorn said after a four-hour meeting.

"I think we will have a little more offence and a little less congestion on the court. It will be somewhat easier for players to move. Therefore we project we will have a little more offense. The 3-point line will be more inviting and you will have to guard people out there."

Thorn said the vote to shorten the line was not quite unanimous. But he said there were few dissenters.

"I think their basic premise

NBA recommends shortening 3-point shot

was that we've had the line for a long time and it has served us well. Maybe it's a little too easy from 22 feet," Thorn said.

"I think you are going to have people who can shoot. Our shooting percentages have been going down and with this shorter line you are going to see more taken and more made," Thorn said.

"In international basketball, you have to guard the line and it can lessen the congestion in the lane."

The 3-point shot was adopted in the NBA for the 1979-80 season.

The committee, comprised of a representative from each of the 27 teams, also recommended that a shooter fouled on a 3-point shot be awarded three free throws instead of two.

Those rule changes must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the NBA's board of governors at a meeting next month, and Thorn said the rule changes will be implemented to them to pass.

Other recommended rule changes include changing the "clear path" foul rules in contact in the backcourt so a player who is breaking up court can't be grabbed: requiring that the second or

more of back-to-back timeouts where the ball has not yet been inbounded will be limited to no more than 45 seconds; ejecting any player who commits two unnecessary-contact fouls during one game.

A recommendation to enlarge or change the shape of the foul lane was tabled so it could be studied more thoroughly, said Thorn.

The league also will implement several measures to address fighting and physical play, including one-game suspension and maximum \$20,000 fine for any player who leaves the bench during an alteration.

These measures, which do not require approval of the board of governors, will be effective with pre-season play this season.

Technical foul fine amounts will be increased to \$500. The current fine is \$100 for the first in a game and \$150 for the second.

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 1,300 American National Football League (NFL) players soon will share \$30 million in pay lost when club owners barred team from games after the 1987 strike.

The National Labour Relations Board (NLRB) said the back pay settlement between the NFL Players Association and the NFL Management Council was the largest in the agency's 59-year history. It also includes lost bonuses and interest.

The award, which the owners of the 28 teams had put into a trust in January 1993 as part of an antitrust settlement, had been held up by several court challenges. Both current and retired players who participated in the 1987 season will share the money.

"We are very pleased that the players who risked their jobs and sacrificed their salaries during the 1987 NFL players' strike will be receiving \$30 million in back pay, bonuses and interest," Gene Upshaw, the union's executive director, said.

The NLRB said the checks for lost games will range between \$3,000 and \$100,000 per player, plus interest. Amounts due by team range from \$917,595 by the Chicago Bears to \$336,687 by the Cardinals.

The management council attempted to play down the settlement, saying the award "was part of the \$195 million overall settlement that the NFL reached with its players in January 1993."

"The NLRB never officially recognised the settlement," NFL spokesman Joe Brown said. "Now it's sprinkling holy water on it."

But NLRB spokesman David B. Parker said "the settlement discussions have been ongoing ... there have been stages of settlement."

The settlement resulted from an NLRB decision that the council and NFL teams had unlawfully refused to allow returning players to participate in games immediately after the strike Oct. 15.

"The board found that the denial of the returning strikers the right to play or be paid, as well as other acts by league management such as withholding game checks for certain injured reserve players, constituted unfair labour practices in violation of the national Labour Relations Act," Feinstein said in a statement.

The strike began Sept. 22 after the players association and management council were unable to agree on several issues, including free agency, which would allow players to sell their services to the highest bidder at the end of their current contracts.

Top seeds advance at Forte Grand tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Top seeds Ehab Shehadeh and Tae In Lee Wednesday moved into the semifinals of the Forte Grand TNT tennis tournament by eliminating tough opponents and playing to their true form.

Ehab Shehadeh took out Terry Zimmermann 6-2, 6-1 in a match that upset the form books but saw a near-flawless game by Shehadeh.

No. 2 seed Tae In Lee took out Richard Lewis in the second court final of the day. Spectators hailed a brave effort by Lewis and a devastating performance by the second seed.

The no. 1 ladies double seeds Otsuka and Ezaki outwitted Dima Annab and Helen Kawar in another match that proved the high quality of women's tennis at the championship.

A tough return to Brazil for Lazaroni

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Sebastiao Lazaroni, who led Brazil's failed attempt to win the 1990 World Cup, is having a tough time in his first job back home since the Italian debacle.

In charge of Rio de Janeiro club Vasco da Gama for two months, Lazaroni has already heard the fans' chants of "idiot, idiot" ringing in his ears and has also suffered stinging media criticism of his tactics.

The story may have a familiar ring for Lazaroni, condemned four years ago as the man tried to take the magic out of Brazilian soccer.

Lazaroni was pilloried and ridiculed from all sides after Brazil were eliminated by Argentina in the second round of the World Cup.

It was the team's lack of style — scoring just four goals in four games and playing with a European-style sweeper system — which angered Brazilians as much as the results.

Several players have already been quoted as criticising the team's tactics after Sunday's 0-0 home draw with Santos, condemned by them as the worst match of the championship so far.

In an earlier game, Vasco congregated around the tunnel and chanted "idiot, idiot" at Lazaroni.

Two rounds of matches are left in the first round, from which the top four teams in each of four six-team groups qualify for the next round.

NFL players to split \$30 million settlement

WASHINGTON (AP) — The NFL's competition committee Tuesday recommended shortening the 3-point shot by making the line 2 uniform 22 feet (6.9 metres) from the basket, a move to increase scoring and ease congestion in the lane.

The line is currently 22 feet in the corners and extends to 23 feet, 9 inches (7.3 metres) at the top of the key. By shortening the distance, Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice president of operations, said teams will be forced to play more defence on the outside.

"It is significant when you move the 3-point line even though it is only a foot and nine inches," Thorn said after a four-hour meeting.

"I think we will have a little more offence and a little less congestion on the court. It will be somewhat easier for players to move. Therefore we project we will have a little more offense. The 3-point line will be more inviting and you will have to guard people out there."

Those rule changes must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the NBA's board of governors at a meeting next month, and Thorn said the rule changes will be implemented to them to pass.

Other recommended rule changes include changing the "clear path" foul rules in contact in the backcourt so a player who is breaking up court can't be grabbed: requiring that the second or

more of back-to-back timeouts where the ball has not yet been inbounded will be limited to no more than 45 seconds; ejecting any player who commits two unnecessary-contact fouls during one game.

A recommendation to enlarge or change the shape of the foul lane was tabled so it could be studied more thoroughly, said Thorn.

The league also will implement several measures to address fighting and physical play, including one-game suspension and maximum \$20,000 fine for any player who leaves the bench during an alteration.

These measures, which do not require approval of the board of governors, will be effective with pre-season play this season.

Technical foul fine amounts will be increased to \$500. The current fine is \$100 for the first in a game and \$150 for the second.

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Training Course on Fermentation Biotechnology

The University of Jordan, McGill University and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are hosting a free training course in the "Biotechnology of Fermentation" which provides training for participants from the food beverage, pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, will be held in the period 8th to 15th of October from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Interested trainees are encouraged to contact Dr. Malik Haddadin for preliminary registration at phone: 843555, Ext. 2676 Fax No.: 833059

McGill University Montreal, Canada

Training Course on Poultry Biotechnology

The University of Jordan, McGill University and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are hosting a free training course in the "Poultry Biotechnology" which provides training for participants from the poultry sector, will be held in the period 25th to 26th of October from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Interested trainees are encouraged to contact Dr. Malik Haddadin or Dr. Shakib Abdulrahim for preliminary registration at phone: 843555, Ext. 2676 Fax No.: 833059

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15-16, 1994 11

Japan pardons Sheikh Ahmad over Taiwan

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese Olympic Committee on Wednesday backed down from threats to withdraw support for Asian sport supremo Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad for inviting Taiwan's president to the Asian Games.

Japan's National Olympic Committee President Hirofumi Furuhashi said "the situation is moving toward a Chinese boycott."

Furuhashi said the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) decision to bar "political figures" from the Asian Games next month in Hiroshima had eased tension. "We will not call him (Sheikh Ahmad) to account unless the situation is strained further," Furuhashi told a news conference.

Furuhashi suggested Tuesday that Japan might not support Sheikh Ahmad's re-

election to the presidency of the OCA because of the invitation he sent to President Lee Teng-Hui. The national committee's executive board decided Wednesday though not to press ahead with the threat.

The Kuwait sheikh's invitation drew protests from Beijing and the threat of a Chinese boycott.

Furuhashi and other Japanese sport leaders lobbied for a solution to the stalemate during the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress in Paris last month. Press reports said this led to the OCA statement banning "political figures."

The statement effectively revoked the invitation to Lee even though Taiwan officials insist his planned visit will go ahead.

NEWS IN BRIEF

FIFA chief to miss Asian Games

TOKYO (AFP) — Joao Havelange, president of the world's football body FIFA, has called off a planned trip to the Oct. 2 opening of the Asian Games, organisers said Wednesday. He will also miss a symposium in Yokohama September 30 to boost Japan's bid to host the 2002 World Cup football finals.

Leonardo suffers knee injury

TOKYO (AFP) — Kashima Antlers' Brazilian international Leonardo was stretchered off after injuring his right knee shortly before the end of a match in the Japanese football league Wednesday. Leonardo, 24, who scored twice in the 31st and 48th minutes in a 2-0 win over Urawa Red Diamonds, crashed against a defender, damaging the cartilage of his right knee.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNIS HIRSCH
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WHERE'S THE NINTH TRICK?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	♦ K ♦ J 7 6 ♦ Q J 9 6 2 ♦ 4 3 2 1
WEST	♦ A 10 6 5 4 ♦ K 5 4 ♦ 7 ♦ Q 7 6 4
EAST	♦ 10 6 5 4 ♦ 10 8 2 ♦ A 5 3 ♦ K 9
SOUTH	♦ A J 9 ♦ 7 5 3 ♦ X 10 8 4 ♦ A 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass 3 NT Pass 4 Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♦
Before committing yourself to a line of play, go over the entire contract. What is the minimum of attack you have selected provided the required number of tricks? If in doubt, look for refinement that will.

North-South were using a 15-17 range for an opening bid of one no trump. Since North quite likely had five diamonds for the immediate raise and, therefore, a six-trick look.



Three weeks rest for Graf

ESSEN, Germany (AP) — World number one Steffi Graf has been told by a specialist to rest her injured back for three weeks, her father, Peter, announced here Wednesday.

After losing to Spain's

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the U.S. Open final in New York at the weekend, Graf headed straight here to consult sports medicine specialist

Professor Hartmut Krahl, who examined her Tuesday.

Graf was in considerable discomfort during Sunday's final and required treatment during a changeover in the second set.

She eventually lost 1-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Graf was in considerable discomfort during Sunday's final and required treatment during a changeover in the second set.

Unlike Jansher's comfortable win, there was swearing and fury as Parke, the usually mild-mannered Yorkshireman, blew his top with Dutch referee Meinoud Kreischer during his victory over compatriot Del Harris.

Leading two games to love

UEFA CUP

Blackburn shocked by Swedish part-timers

LONDON (AP) — Kenny Dalglish's long awaited debut as a manager in European competition had a disastrous outcome when his fancied Blackburn Rovers suffered a shock 1-0 loss at home to a team of Swedish part-timers in the UEFA Cup first round Tuesday.

Real Madrid beat its Iberian neighbour Sporting Lisbon 1-0 in their first leg match, while a Robert Lee hat-trick led Newcastle on a successful return to Europe after 17 years with a dazzling 5-0 demolition of Royal Antwerp.

Tuesday's first leg featured four hat-tricks with Kalma Kova netting three for Hon-

vend Budapest in its 4-1 win over Twente Enschede of the Netherlands. The 5-4 goalfest between Bayer Leverkusen and Dutch team PSV Eindhoven saw two hat-tricks, with Ulf Kirsten on target for the German winners and Brazilian World Cup player Ronaldo for the losers.

Blackburn was expected to make easy work of Trelleborgs at home, but the Swedes, made up of a truck driver, pest controller, auditor and several students among their ranks, frustrated the extravagantly paid professionals from England.

Strong defence by Christian Karlsson and excellent goalkeeping by Trelleborgs'

bogey's tiny 10,000 capacity ground Sept. 27.

Martin Vazquez scored Madrid's winner in the 11th minute when his low shot from 20 metres slipped through the fingers of Sporting's

goalkeeper Zoran Lemačić.

The England forward ensured Newcastle's average of four goals a game was maintained, hitting the opener inside the first minute and following up on the 9th and 55th minutes.

Sporting's Polish player Andrei Juskowiak had two chances to equalise late in the game, but was thwarted by

goalkeeper Paco Buyo in the 67th minute and soon after hit the crossbar.

Lee exemplified the class which has put Newcastle on top of the English Premier League with five wins from all dozen minutes from him.

Italian clubs had an unhappy start, with Lazio being held to a 0-0 away draw with Dynamo Minsk of Belarus and CSKA Sofia of Bulgaria, beating Juventus Turin 2-1 in Sofia.

In the only Cup Winners' Cup match Tuesday, Werder Bremen and Maccabi Tel Aviv drew 0-0.

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TUESDAY
Members, beware!
Your IQ is put to the test on Quiz Night every Tuesday. From world records, batting averages to spectacular defeats, get ready to answer all kinds of trivia. The winner goes home with a prize!

WEDNESDAY
Go for the bulls-eye!
Wednesday night is Darts Night. Remember to concentrate and aim right when you throw those darts, and you'll get your prize on the spot!

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THE PELICAN BREW Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30
CONCORD '2'
Bruce Willis — In **Striking Distance** Shows: 3:30, 5:30
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Qouriea: Self-rule regime inefficient

Arab League appeals for funds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian self-government is muddled in its economic policies and has failed to introduce badly needed changes. Yasser Arafat's economic minister charged Wednesday. "Absolutely nothing has been achieved on the ground so far...the Palestinian administration did not take concrete steps to make Palestinian citizens feel the change," said the minister Ahmad Qouriea, an architect of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) accord on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, the West Bank town of Jericho.

Palestinian sources close to Mr. Qouriea said the main problem was that Mr. Arafat insisted on making all decisions himself, including personally granting approval for any investment project.

Mr. Qouriea did not refer to Mr. Arafat directly, but told Israel Radio Wednesday that business people were reluctant to invest because of a lack of proper planning.

"I am afraid that the private sector has gone shy, not taking risks of investing without bylaws and regulations, without approved economic plans," he said.

Such investment is badly needed, he said, because unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza stands at about 45 per cent.

Mr. Qouriea also complained of confusion and inefficiency in the PLO-run economic organisations, including the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) that serves as a conduit for the international aid.

"Even PECDAR, which is the most important economic organisation, is staggering between different mandates and contradictory instructions," Mr. Qouriea told the radi.

Mr. Qouriea reportedly has been excluded recently from key decisions on economic policy. Palestinian sources said Mr. Qouriea had put together a delegation for last week's negotiations with donor countries in Paris, but a different group was then picked by Mr. Arafat for the meeting.

Arafat loyalists consider Mr. Qouriea a puppet of the World Bank because the economics minister agrees with international demands that the Palestinians must set up an accounting system before international aid is banded over.

Mr. Arafat, who likes to control the flow of money himself, recently dismissed demands for such an accounting system as an "incorrect

slogan."

Arab League appeal

In Cairo, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid urged member states Wednesday to help fund Palestinian self-rule, at the opening of a foreign ministers' meeting in the Egyptian capital.

A financial commitment was "necessary to allow a global programme to be launched capable of promoting the required development in the autonomous territories," said Dr. Abdul Meguid.

"Arab development funds and inter-Arab economic organisations are called upon to take a greater interest in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, he added.

The Palestinian National Authority and Mr. Arafat have complained that funds pledged by the international community to back self-rule have been withheld, endangering the smooth running of autonomy launched on May 4.

The issue of Arab support for the fledgling self-rule was at the top of the agenda for the two-day meeting. Said Kamal, a senior secretary general for Palestinian affairs, told AFP.

Kaddoumi slams deal

A senior PLO official on Wednesday slammed the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles signed a year ago saying it had virtually failed to achieve anything positive.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said the accord signed on Sept. 13, 1993 in Washington "has not produced any positive result, except that the brothers (Palestinians) have returned home."

"The Israeli intransigence and mentality have not changed," he added.

Mr. Kaddoumi was speaking at a news conference as head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting.

He urged Arab states to continue their boycott of Israel until all occupied Arab territory was liberated, but the issue was not expected to be discussed at the Cairo meeting.

Faisal Husseini, a leading Palestinian official in the occupied territories, also accused Israel of "trying to delay implementation of the autonomy accord," which launched self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in May.

He said Israel was holding up elections to an autonomy council, which will steer self-rule in the autonomous Gaza Strip and the West Bank, where Israel has begun transferring civilian powers to the Palestinians.

RJ privatisation is too far — Kawar

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The privatisation of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, is still under serious consideration but it is unlikely to be accomplished before the end of the year, Minister of Transport Samir Kawar said Wednesday.

Numerous studies are being conducted and reports being drawn up to assess the feasibility of privatising the airline, but no definite decision has been made over the airline's future, Mr. Kawar said.

A British consultancy firm, KPMG Peat, presented preliminary findings after a six-month study of the airline's financial status at a workshop on RJ headed by Mr. Kawar earlier this week.

The outcome of technical, financial and economic discussions at the workshop will be incorporated into the final report of the KPMG consultants, Mr. Kawar told the Jordan Times.

The workshop elicited "many fruitful points, but further studies are to follow," he added.

The studies included examinations of failed and successful privatisation programmes of other international airlines, and no decision will be taken to privatise Royal Jordanian until the government-appointed privatisation committee is certain of its success, said Mr. Kawar, who heads the committee.

Mr. Kawar was unable to

speculate when the verdict would be passed. "No decision will be made until all the studies have been completed, and all proposals are submitted and this will take time," he said. If the privatisation committee accepts the proposals, official procedures necessitate further delays, he said.

Mr. Kawar said it was too early to discuss issues such as share sales or who the main shareholders are likely to be.

The extent of the studies and reports means that a step-by-step approach will be adopted. It is possible that Royal Jordanian will be "commercialised before it is privatised"; the aims of either project are to "enhance the performance and the profitability" of the airline, he stated.

Mr. Kawar declined to say whether privatisation would expand the scope of RJ operations or affect ticket costs.

These matters would depend upon the results of the studies, he said.

In the meantime, Al Aswag newspaper reported Wednesday that a committee entrusted with a feasibility study for the privatisation of Royal Jordanian Gateway Hotel and the duty-free shop located at the airport had presented its findings to the Cabinet. The Cabinet is expected to reach a decision within the next two weeks and the main two bidders are believed to be the Jordan Investment Bureau and the Social Security Corporation; both are government-guided agencies.

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